

سید محمد علی

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THE TIMES

No. 65,103 FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4 1994

Resign? 'No. I battle for what I believe to be the interests of this country,' says Heseltine

Fury on Right as post Bill is abandoned

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

MICHAEL Heseltine and leading rightwingers last night rounded angrily on Conservative MPs who forced the Cabinet to drop all its options for privatising the Royal Mail.

Mr Heseltine and John Major conceded defeat at the hands of a dozen Conservative rebels and agreed that they had no choice but to abandon legislation on the Post Office in the next Queen's speech.

The loss of a centrepiece Bill virtually on the eve of the new session is a blow to Mr Major's authority at a time when he is trying to move the spotlight away from the sleaze allegations that have dogged the Government.

A defiant Mr Heseltine made plain he believed that the Government had been compelled to make the wrong decision. It was a "sad day for the Royal Mail", he said.

Michael Heron, the Post Office chairman, said the service would remain in "crippling uncertainty".

Asked whether he had considered resigning, the Board of Trade President retorted: "No. I am a fighter. I battle for what I believe to be the interests of this country."

At the same time senior Tory backbenchers, bitter over Mr Heseltine's humiliating reverse, suggested that the Government was a "lame duck", incapable of getting its way.

The Cabinet deliberated for more than three hours and conceded that it had no chance of pushing any of Mr Heseltine's alternatives through the Commons even though a big majority fa-



Heron: "crippling uncertainty ahead"

voured privatisation. It decided to look at ways of making the Post Office more competitive in the public sector. But substantial moves, such as altering Treasury rules to allow the Post Office to borrow more on the open market, are unlikely to be contemplated and the Royal Mail may have to continue trading in the face of foreign and domestic competition.

The Post Office counters business is expected to be given greater freedom to seek private sector clients. This is likely to lead to more people paying a variety of bills at the Post Office, automation of benefit payments and links between Post Office counters and telecommunications companies.

Senior ministers admitted last night that the outcome illustrated the Government's weak positions because of the small Commons majority.

Mr Heseltine said he had not "yet reached the end of

the day", and that "what I said is as true today as it was yesterday". His remarks and others from ministers suggested that the Government believes it may have to return to the question of privatisation.

One source drew a parallel with Baroness Thatcher's failure to get the reform of shopping hours through the Commons eight years ago, a setback that has been remedied this year.

Mr Heseltine said that he had had "excellent support" from the Prime Minister. "We would not have got anywhere near this situation unless he had not backed me time and again and I had overwhelming endorsement from the Cabinet this morning."

But among his friends there was strong criticism of Mr Major for allowing Mr Heseltine to go so far without endorsing Royal Mail privatisation. Had he done so, senior MPs claimed, it would have been easier for Mr Heseltine to face down the rebellion.

One senior rightwinger said last night: "This Government is now being run by a ragbag of rebels, not the Cabinet."

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, spoke of his immense disappointment. "I think it will be seen as quite extraordinary. I think it will do us a lot of harm because a government must be seen to have a philosophy and a purpose. The Government must be seen to have policies that are different from those of the Labour Party," he said on Radio 4's *World at One* programme.

James Cran, MP for Bever-



Michael Heseltine comes out smiling after the Cabinet agreed to abandon his Post Office privatisation Bill

ley, said: "I am extremely disappointed because I heard the chief executive of the Post Office this morning telling the whole country that what he needed was to get his business freed from the shackles of the public sector."

Colin Baker, general secretary of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, said:

"We are pleased that the Government has consulted and taken notice. We hope that when the dust has settled, people will remember those rural post offices that they loved."

The rebels voiced delight in spite of the vitriolic accusations against them. Sir Keith Speed, MP for Ashford, said:

"On a personal level, I am delighted I won't be voting against the Government. It is the right decision for the PO and not least for the Government and the Conservative Party because it is widely unpopular in the country."

Mr Heseltine underlined the limits of what may now be possible when he ruled out the

solution favoured by Labour and the Tory rebels for lifting borrowing constraints on the Post Office.

He said that if he tried to let it operate like a private company.

Continued on page 2, col 3

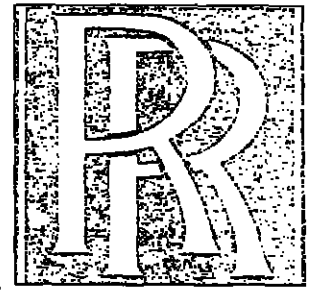
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Rolls calls in the Germans for its next car

By Kevin Eason
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ROLLS-ROYCE, the last bastion of British car making, will have a foreign partner within weeks, almost certainly from Germany.

The company will buy in major components such as electronics, engines and gearboxes. The two main contenders are BMW and Mercedes-Benz. Where once engines were hand-built by engineers who signed off their work with a brass plate under the bonnet, the next generation of engines could come from Stuttgart or Munich. Enthusiasts, who have clung to the image of Rolls-Royce as the



last wholly-owned British car maker, will despair, although the company will remain entirely in British hands.

Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive of Vickers, which owns Rolls-Royce, said yesterday: "We all accept that this business will need a partner who can bring technology and components and support new models in the latter half of the 1990s."

Rolls sells cars that cost up to £220,000, with 6.7-litre engines that consume fuel at almost three times the rate of a family saloon. The company needs smaller models but the cost of developing a new car with a more economical engine is now so great that it has been forced to bow to the inevitable and buy in essential components rather than try to make them itself.

Hijacker holds 70 in Norway
A man believed to be Bosnian hijacked a Scandinavian Airlines System plane on an internal flight bound for Oslo last night to draw world attention to the Bosnian war.

The hijacker is holding more than 70 passengers at an airport near Oslo and demanding food and electricity for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Flood ordeal
A woman was drowned and a British mother and daughter had a narrow escape when flash floods swept them away from a stranded Egyptian tourist bus towards the Red Sea. Yesterday the freak storms were continuing in the region. Page 16

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November gets off to balmy start
By Marianne Curphey

LONDON enjoyed the warmest November day for a decade yesterday and the whole of the country basked in temperatures well above average for the time of year.

Temperatures in the capital reached 19C (66F). The November record is 22C set in Prestatyn, Wales, in 1946.

At Heathrow the average was 18C, only a few degrees lower than in Italy and France, and the entire south coast of England had a mild, balmy day. Warm air sweeping up from France helped keep ports around the coast of Devon and Cornwall at 14C.

Despite heavy rain over much of Wales, temperatures remained high, reaching 14C.

The London Weather Centre said: "It has not been a typical start to November. We would normally be expecting temperatures to stay at around 10C in the north and 12C in the south."

THE TIMES
30p
ON SATURDAY

MAGAZINE
Robert Crompton meets Rod Stewart, Superlad

WEEKEND
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VISION
The 7-day TV and radio guide

Police lay siege to prisoner and family
By Stewart Tandler and Simon de Bruxelles

ARMED police were last night surrounding a Welsh holiday cottage where an escaped prisoner, on the run with his wife and four children, had taken refuge.

James Moore, 35, his wife, Trina Powell, and at least one of the children, Rachel Powell, eight, were also in the cottage, together with another prisoner who escaped with Moore. Police were unable to establish if the other children - Rachel's brother, Scott Powell, six, and David, and Clare Moore, six and four - were with them.

A witness said a child had come out of the chalet in the early evening with a note.

Dyed police surrounded the isolated cottage in Penparc, near Cardigan, after a red van used by Moore and Richard Johnson, 22, for their escape from jail on Humber-side two weeks ago was found parked in the village. A huge manhunt, involving a helicopter and tracker dogs, began after two men dressed in camouflage jackets were seen running from the vehicle.

A police spokeswoman said trained police negotiators were at the cottage talking to the two men. No threats have been made by Moore, and police do not believe he is armed.

Moore, 35, a former armed robber, was serving an eight-year sentence for kidnapping. He escaped from prison a fortnight after being allowed out on licence to marry Trina Powell, 26, a girlfriend who served 18 months for her part in the earlier kidnapping of his two children.

Two weeks ago Trina and her own children made an overnight visit to Moore's former wife, Julie, and his two children at their home in Grimsby. Police were alerted the following morning when Julie discovered that Trina and all four of the children had disappeared.

Rowland is forced to quit Lonrho
"TINY" Rowland, Britain's most controversial businessman, has been forced to retire from Lonrho - two months after surviving an abortive boardroom coup.

In a brief statement after Lonrho's board meeting yesterday, the company said that Mr Rowland, 76, had decided to resign as joint managing director and chief executive at the end of the year. He will remain a director until Lonrho's AGM in March when he will retire from the board. As part of the agreement, he will continue to receive his salary and expenses and other benefits - estimated at some £1.6 million - until the end of 1995.

Mr Rowland's departure from the international conglomerate which he has dominated for more than 30 years, marks the end of a long-running power play with German financier Dieter Bock.

Power play lost, page 25

Royal Navy to cast off bell-bottoms after 137 years

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE demise of one of the most famous naval sights, the British sailor rolling off his ship in his bell-bottoms, is expected from a review of Royal Navy uniforms which will lead to a new set of clothes by 1997.

Bell-bottom trousers was as much a naval tradition as the tot of rum and an all-male crew. Now the flared trousers may have to go, the rum has already been removed and there are women on board.

The old-style bell-bottoms with the natty blue jacket and square collar, known as the square rig, were first worn in 1857 and survived until the 1970s when slightly more modest flares were introduced. The bell-bottoms, strictly for the sailors, not for the officers, were designed to allow crew members who fell overboard to remove them as quickly as possible so as to swim more easily.

The flared trousers of today remain a totally different style to all other Royal Navy, Army and RAF trousers and that is now viewed as an unacceptable extra cost. Naval chiefs want to cut costs to provide enough money for improved protective clothing for crews. Scrapping the bell-bottom style, however, is expected to face opposition from navy traditionalists who have already had to put up with Wrens on board warships.

A leading article in the Royal Navy's in-house magazine, *Navy News*, said yesterday: "The plotted departure of flares as the vestigial reminder of the old bell-bottoms will be regarded by some as a sellout despite the obvious economy gained by adopting a single service trousers design."

Commander David Hobbs, the navy's new uniform project officer, emphasised that no decisions had been taken. "We are not trying to save money but redistribute it. Our main concern is to provide good protective clothing with modern materials."

He said that significant savings could be made if colour was the only factor that distinguished naval trousers from those of the Army and the RAF.



Sailors stepping ashore in traditional uniform

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Royal Mail now at mercy of companies using latest technology, say chiefs

Competition hots up for PO services

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

POST Office leaders fear that the Government's decision to drop privatisation will leave the Royal Mail in particular at the mercy of increasing international and technological competition.

Both Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and Michael Heron, the Post Office's chairman, said last night that the Post Office could be hit hard by its competitors without the commercial freedom that privatisation would have given.

While both may be overstating their case in the aftermath of losing traditional Royal Mail services are facing competition as never before.

The threat from growing telecommunications services, especially phone and fax, is rated by the Post Office as the most serious, since it believes that postal services will find it difficult to compete on price. A technologically based industry is much more likely to be able to cut its costs as technology advances than is a still largely labour-intensive business.

Very many companies already operate in those markets in competition with the Post Office, although the Government said yesterday it would maintain the £1 monopoly limit on letters, which means that while many businesses are able to send mail by cycle and other forms of couriers, many domestic and large-volume mailers will continue to use the Post Office.

Companies operating in that area include telecoms carriers like BT and Mercury,

and parcel carriers like TNT, DHL and Federal Express.

In the wake of the decision on privatisation, industry observers believe such companies will now begin to press the Department of Trade and Industry on grounds of unfair competition for access to PO counter and mail services, in much the same way that Mercury and other phone companies can — at a price — have access to BT's network.

But Post Office leaders are particularly concerned about foreign-owned postal services now stepping up their efforts in Britain to win postal business, especially those that already have the commercial freedom the Post Office wants or are privatised.

The Dutch PTT, which is in the process of being privatised, already has an operational base in Britain and is actively seeking business, while Germany's postal service may well follow suit.

But they will be unlikely to be offering services to domestic users. Instead, they will be trying to enter the lucrative market for bulk mailings, trying to offer companies highly competitive rates if they send large-scale mailshots through their services rather than by way of the Post Office.

Post Office managers believe that the inroads such postal services have already made are the reason why there was last year what the Post Office describes as a "worrying" downward trend in pillar-box mail, disguised by the growth of bulk mail.

THE SERVICES UNDER THREAT

□ **Social mail:** Christmas, birthday and other greeting cards face competition from telephone calls, hand deliveries and companies such as Interflora.

□ **Financial mail:** sending 18.3 billion bills and invoices, cheques and other money matters are under threat from faxes, electronic data transmission, telephone-based credit and debit card transactions, home banking and bicycle couriers.

□ **Commercial mail:** includes newspapers, magazines, books and orders. The Post Office's share is under threat from retail purchasing, home deliveries, electronic mail and the telephone.

□ **Advertising:** the Post Office is competing with newspapers, radio, television, posters and on-line services for the small but lucrative advertising market.



The sorting office in Birmingham, a labour-intensive operation in an increasingly high-tech industry

Right's fury

Continued from page 1

pany within the public sector pany within the public sector pany within the public sector

He agreed he was "bitterly disappointed". He added: "I have one real interest in the job that I am doing and that is to help Britain to win in the world. I find it extremely distressing to see Royal Mail having its markets eaten into by Australian and American multi-national transportation companies. I am depressed by the fact that the Dutch and Germans are moving into private capital in their postal services. I believe that Royal Mail is a potential world class business."

Asked whether the Royal Mail would now prosper he replied: "No, that is the problem. The Royal Mail is losing its market share. You can see it every day all over the country."

Tory rebels, page 11
Peter Riddell, page 20

Stamps, pensions and a ticket to the theatre

By Philip Bassett

POST offices are to offer a range of new services including travel and theatre tickets, despite yesterday's abandonment of the privatisation of Royal Mail and Parcelforce.

The Post Office is now likely to be threatened with increasing competition from foreign postal services operating here and from British companies.

The closure of many post offices in towns and villages will continue. Opponents of the Government's privatisation plans were insisting last night that their successful campaign would mean that the rate of closures would be less than it would have been had those plans gone ahead.

Senior managers who favoured privatisation insisted that the Queen's head would have remained on postage stamps, the Crown would have been retained on vans and the Royal Mail would have kept its name had privatisation had gone ahead. Opponents of privatisation

Charles I set up the first post office in 1635 and Charles II set up the General Post Office in 1660. In 1840 Rowland Hill established the principle that the sender paid. In 1969 the Post Office was born as a nationalised company and today it is split into Royal Mail, Parcelforce and Post Office Counters. In profit and unsubsided for 18 years, it made a pre-tax profit of £306 m last year.

insisted that such features were incompatible with private ownership.

Post Office Counters will now be sanctioned by the Government to introduce a range of new services. The Post Office Counters business will be able to offer new services — not by legislation, but by what the Government calls "building on its existing activities."

Senior managers believe the services will include:

able to sell bus, coach and rail tickets, as well perhaps as holiday packages.

□ **Financial services:** the Post Office may be able to sell services that can be marketed as consumer products, such as travel insurance.

□ **Tickets:** Post offices will sell theatre and other entertainment tickets.

□ **Payments:** Consumers will be able to settle utility bills, such as gas and electricity, at post offices.

□ **Lottery:** The Post Office, which already has a close relationship with Camelot, the company that is running the National Lottery, will be able to sell tickets for the lottery.

Senior Post Office managers believe many private sector companies will be keen to agree contracts with the Post Office to sell their products.

But Post Office managers said last night that the abandonment of privatisation would lead to an increase in competing services which could damage the PO's business.

London loses bishop in 'bleak' cash cuts

The Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, last night announced financial cuts in his diocese, including the loss of a bishop and the abolition of all five area synods and their bishops' councils (Ruth Gledhill writes). Dr Hope said he was responding to "a very bleak financial climate" where contributions towards clergy pay from the Church Commissioners were expected to "fall away substantially".

He will not appoint a successor to the Right Rev John Hughes, Bishop of Kensington, who died in August. In an announcement that foreshadows a broader restructuring, Dr Hope told the diocesan synod at Church House, Westminster, that he would appoint two of his six archdeacons for five years only. Most archdeacons expect an incumbency for life. Church members are expected to regard the cuts as necessary in the light of financial difficulties.

Cancer compensation

Families of cancer patients who died because of a radiotherapy error by North Staffordshire Hospital appear likely to win compensation. The area health authority said that, provided agreement could be reached, compensation would be paid in "a number of cases". The announcement followed an inquest verdict that two patients died of natural causes aggravated by lack of care. Margaret Grievson, who wrongly programmed the computer that administered incorrect radiation dosages, is back in her job after an inquiry found her guilty of "errors in professional judgment".

Legal aid clampdown

Measures to clamp down on people fraudulently claiming legal aid were outlined yesterday. John Taylor, the minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said that a more detailed form, on which people claim legal aid, is to be issued. In another move, solicitors will have to seek authority before giving free advice more than once a year to the same client. About 100 suspected frauds on the legal aid scheme are at present under investigation.

Safety ruling avoided

Leaders of Britain's biggest teachers' union and safety experts criticised new rules that allow volunteer drivers of minibuses to avoid stringent new rules demanding extra training. The exemption from European Union regulations was requested by the Government to protect journeys made by charities and schools that cannot afford professional drivers. Doug McAvoy, the NUT general secretary, said the exemption was an "out of date distinction".

Ban on 'klondikers'

The Government moved yesterday to tighten controls on foreign fish factory ships in British waters three days after a Russian boat was wrecked off the Shetland Islands, spilling fuel oil into the sea. Proposals will be drawn up by the end of the year for banning so-called "klondiker" vessels that do not comply with safety standards. From next summer, when the herring season starts, fish factory ships will also have to give 28 days notice when applying for shipment licences.

Collector in wonderland

An 83-year-old visitor to the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* found that his collection of six first edition Lewis Carroll was worth at least £60,000. The anonymous man was given the books, including three copies of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, by an aunt who was the writer's goddaughter. He said he would leave them to his grandchildren.

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Nolan opts for public hearings

By Jonathan Prynn, Political Reporter

EVIDENCE to the inquiry into standards of conduct in public life will be heard in public wherever possible. Lord Nolan, the chairman, said last night.

He also left open the possibility of allowing television cameras to film the inquiry proceedings, but he ruled out the prospect of examining the individual cases of MPs.

Lord Nolan, a Lord Justice of Appeal, said the inquiry would examine four key areas of public concern. The former defence secretary Tom King is to oversee the question of gifts in cash and kind to ministers. Peter Shore, a former Labour Cabinet minister, will look at the way appointments are made to quangos. Lord Thomson of Monifieth, a Liberal Democrat peer, will examine the practice of former ministers and officials joining the boards of companies with which they had official dealings. Sir Clifford Boulton, a former Clerk to the House of Commons, will look at payments to MPs for Parliamentary services.

Lord Nolan also invited submissions from the public to be sent within six weeks to the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Cabinet Office, Horse Guard Road, London SW1P 3AL.

Stories of sleaze cut Tory support

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

SLEAZE allegations against the Government have led to a further undermining of the Tories' already dismal electoral standing, an opinion poll shows today.

The Gallup poll in *The Daily Telegraph* shows that support for the Conservatives have dropped by four points in the past month to 21.5 per cent, one of the lowest standings recorded for the Tories. Labour has increased its lead over the Conservatives to 35 points and stand at 56.5 per cent.

The survey, conducted last weekend among 1,120 adults, shows that 73 per cent considered the Conservatives "sleazy and disreputable", up 12 points from last month, while only 19 per cent considered Labour as sleazy, up one point.

Percentages in the 80s and 90s were returned against MPs accepting payments for parliamentary questions, free holidays abroad or money for parliamentary duties.

Although MPs have tried to deflect criticism of their activities by calling for criminal charges to be laid against the editor of *The Guardian* for using House of Commons notepaper to obtain a copy of Jonathan Aitken's Ritz hotel bill, the opinion of leading lawyers yesterday was that he had not committed any offence under criminal or civil law.

They believe that criminal charges of theft, forgery, conspiracy or counterfeiting could be pinned on Peter Preston. The only civil offence that might have been committed was in the hotel's release of the confidential details of Mr Aitken's bill.

Cameron Doley, a solicitor with Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, said that stealing offences were regulated by the Theft Act 1968. This states that property must be stolen, and the courts have held that the confidential information such as the details of Mr Aitken's hotel bill — does not amount to "property" under the Act.

Although the House of Commons notepaper would be considered property, Mr Preston did not steal it. "If it could be shown that Mr Preston had walked into the House of Commons and stolen notepaper, that might be an offence," Mr Doley said. But he used notepaper sent to *The Guardian* by Mr Aitken.

A second possibility is the offence of forgery, punishable under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 by up to ten years. But this did not apply to the forged fax because it did not deceive someone into committing an act to his or her prejudice.

Letters, page 21

Creamery blockaded by farmers

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

FARMERS blockaded a Dairy Crest butter-making creamery yesterday in protest at the plant's closure.

About 50 Welsh farmers parked their tractors outside the two entrances to the factory at Whitland, Dyfed, said a Dairy Crest spokesman, but they had not prevented operations at the plant, which will shut tomorrow.

Dairy Crest blames the closures of the Whitland plant, and of another at Longridge near Preston in Lancashire on increases in the price of raw milk which came into effect on November 1. A total of 260 jobs will be lost.

About 1,400 dairy farmers in West Wales relied on the Whitland plant. They fear they will now face higher costs because their milk will have to be transported to creameries and processing plants over the border in England.

Workers at the Whitland plant, backed by local authorities and development agencies, are trying to negotiate a buyout with Dairy Crest to keep the factory going.

Mary James, policy officer of the Farmers Union of Wales, said: "The closure will be the best thing for the industry as a whole in the long run."

Blunkett softens opt-out opposition

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

LABOUR softened its opposition to grant-maintained schools yesterday and invited head teachers and governors to explain why they should not be returned to local authority control.

David Blunkett, the shadow education spokesman, said the party wanted to learn how individual opt-out schools were working to raise standards and to understand their opposition to the abolition of grant-maintained status.

The step reflects Labour anxiety at the prospect of a bruising political battle to return more than 1,000 schools — many in marginal constituencies — where parents have voted to opt out of local authority control. Mr Blunkett is keen to bury Labour's image as the defender of the teaching unions and to tailor policy

more closely to the demands of pupils and parents.

In his first policy statement since taking up his appointment, Mr Blunkett said Labour remained opposed to opting out, but sought a local framework acceptable to local authorities and to schools.

Mr Blunkett says in an interview today with *The Times Educational Supplement*: "I want to know the underlying reasons for schools becoming grant-maintained, apart from those that are purely ideological. If it is the bureaucracy they want to escape, let us challenge that bureaucracy. I am more interested in the issue of how we deliver high standards and high quality in education. The structure is only a means to an end."

Mr Blunkett's invitation to all schools

to contribute to a Labour Party review of the education service for the next century effectively marks the opening of a new debate about opting out. It downgrades Labour's so-called Education White Paper published in July, which took his predecessor, Ann Taylor, two years to prepare but was poorly received in the education world.

Sir Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, welcomed Mr Blunkett's approach. He said: "I am pleased that he wants to consult widely but the 1.5 million parents of pupils in grant-maintained schools will not forgive Labour if this just a public relations exercise."

Leading article, page 21

Woman weeps after blackmail case jury watches sex videos

By CATHERINE MUTTON

A WEALTHY businesswoman wept yesterday as she told a jury at the Old Bailey that a business associate had threatened to circulate videos of her making love unless she paid £2 million.

She gave evidence after the court had seen long extracts from the videos showing the woman, identified only as Mrs S, in states of undress and having sexual intercourse. The prosecution alleged that the videos proved she was not aware of the camera set up by Abdulmajed Bembhani, 61, a Kuwaiti national, Mr Bembhani denies blackmail.

Mrs S, 43, wept as she told the court: "He said he would make a picture of me and send them to everyone." She said the threats were made in telephone calls and meetings in May 1993.

The price for the tapes had varied: "He started with half a million and ended up with two million."

The court was told that Mr Bembhani and Mrs S had shared business interests and were involved in a property deal in Europe. When Mr Bembhani suffered financial trouble after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Mrs S lent him several hundred thousand pounds.

He tried to blackmail her when the money was due to be repaid, the jury was told.

Nicholas Coleman, for the prosecution, said that the tapes had not been shown in court to embarrass Mrs S — the prosecution would rather the tapes were not played — but to show that she was not aware of the recordings while being made.

He said: "The Crown submit that the defendant set the camera up in such a way as to reveal the most intimate parts of Mrs S's body and in a manner calculated to bring her into disrepute."

Mr Coleman added: "There is nothing particularly romantic in these videos. The viewing would show 'great intimacy between the two of them with you might think the defendant determined to parade Mrs S to maximum effect'."

Mr Coleman said that Mrs S was "a very well-respected businesswoman and it was her fear the defendant would divulge the videos to the world at large."

"She was more particularly concerned about disclosure to her friends and business colleagues."

"The defendant also threatened to disclose the tapes to an important person in the Middle East."

Mrs S said that she learnt of the tapes in May 1993 when Mr Bembhani telephoned a woman friend of hers and claimed to have them. Mrs S said that she was present during the phone call and able to hear snippets of the conversation.

She told the jury: "He said: 'I will make a good business out of it.' He was talking previously about the films, using bad words, doing things."

"He meant love making. He was indicating that he was filming me... lovemaking. I did not believe it."

Mrs S said that she telephoned the police and went in a panic to Mr Bembhani's flat in St John's Wood, north London, to which she had a key, found three tapes and took them home.

"I played it in the camera. I saw myself in it. I still wish it never happened. I feel very bad of course because it was not only that somebody got the film from me, I saw myself and lost the man I loved. Everything was lost."

Mr Coleman said the negotiations were finalised and police arrested Mr Bembhani at his home.

He denied blackmail, telling police: "It's absolutely not true."

Mr Coleman said the defendant made copies so that he could blackmail her again after she had handed over the money in bankers' drafts at a Paris rendezvous.

The trial continues today.

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Victim of hypnosis accepts £20,000 for injury

By MARIANNE CUREPHEY

A WOMAN who fell from a stage and broke her leg under the spell of a hypnotist has won an out-of-court settlement of £20,000.

In a case that has important implications for theatre owners and television shows, Ann Hazard, who subsequently suffered a personality change and now walks with a limp, was awarded the sum from receivers acting for one-time owners of the Pavilion Theatre in Glasgow.

Ms Hazard, 25, who did not sue the hypnotist Robert Halpern, as he was uninsured, said the money was unimportant but called for stringent monitoring of hypnotists.

Ms Hazard's lawyers, who had launched an £80,000 claim for damages, said she was put into a trance by Mr Halpern after he invited her on to the stage of the Pavilion Theatre in July 1988.

Frank Maguire, for Ms Hazard, said that during hypnosis she had asked if she could go to the lavatory and that the hypnotist had told her to "go by the quickest exit". She went to the front of the stage and dropped off, falling four feet and breaking her right leg in two places.

She had launched the damages claim against the receivers for the theatre, which is under new ownership.

Ms Hazard, from Livingston, Central, required a plating and grafting operation on her leg and was in plaster for seven months. She still has a limp and had to give up running and judo. Her lawyers said she also suffered a personality change, making her irritable.

Ms Hazard, who is to marry her fiancé Stephen Gregory in two weeks, said: "That night out at the theatre changed my life. I still suffer from nightmares as a result of the accident."

The out-of-court settlement was announced by Ms Hazard and her lawyers at a news conference in Glasgow.

Ms Hazard, who fought her case with legal aid, said



Ann Hazard in Glasgow yesterday after speaking about her damages case

she hoped her case would make more people aware of the dangers of hypnosis could cause unless it was carefully monitored. "I would gladly swap every penny of what I have for my health back."

Members of the Campaign against Stage Hypnotists (CASH) welcomed Ms Hazard's settlement. Margaret Harper, whose daughter Sharon Tabern, 24, choked to death last year in her sleep less than five hours after being put under hypnosis during a pub performance, described the settlement as

"an important victory" and called for a ban on stage and television hypnosis shows.

"It is easy to prove you have suffered broken bones, but I have been contacted by people whose minds have been damaged by these shows and that is far more difficult to prove," she said.

"Stage hypnotists work on people's secret fears without knowing anything of their medical background."

Mr Maguire, Ms Hazard's lawyer, said: "The fact that a settlement has been made in this case should act as a

warning to other theatre owners to take great care over safety, especially where stage hypnotists are involved."

He had argued that the theatre management should not have allowed the act to proceed until it was satisfied all precautions had been taken to minimise the risk to members of the audience.

Stage hypnosis is regulated under the 1952 Hypnotism Act. Public performances require a local authority licence, but it is the premises that are licensed, not the performer.

Builder's barristers resign in multiple death case

By BILL FROST

TWO leading barristers have withdrawn from the defence team representing Frederick West, the Gloucester builder facing 12 murder charges.

Charles Barton, QC, and Martin Steen, his junior, withdrew from the case some weeks ago, said Mr West's solicitor yesterday. "It was entirely amicable. They went of their own volition," added Tony Miles of the Bristol-based law firm Bobbatts Mackan.

Mr Miles is shortly to confirm a new leading counsel for the 53-year-old Gloucester builder. "Nothing should be read into this development," he said. "Mr West changed his solicitor some months ago and a change of team under those circumstances is not unusual."

The withdrawal of the two barristers comes less than two weeks before Frederick West and his wife Rosemary, 40, who are jointly accused of nine of the alleged murders, are due to appear again at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. The hearing on November 15 is expected to set a date for committal proceedings to start in one of Britain's biggest mass murder cases.

Mr West alone stands accused on three further murder counts — his first wife Catherine, their eight-year-old daughter Charmaine, and the family's Scots nanny Anne McCall.

This is the second important change in Mr West's legal representation. The builder sacked Howard Ogden, a Gloucester solicitor, in August without giving any reason for the dismissal.

Mr Ogden currently faces allegations that he touted the film and book rights to the Frederick West story, and is due to appear before a solicitors' disciplinary hearing. Mr Ogden says he will strenuously deny the accusations.

"Another barrister, Martin Pictou, has been instructed and the choice of a new leading counsel is about to be finalised," Mr Miles said.

Mr Barton is a well-known and highly respected figure on the western Circuit, where he is also a Recorder.

Lawyers committed citizenship fraud

By A STAFF REPORTER

A LONDON solicitor found guilty of being involved in a fraud that enabled rich Hong Kong residents to buy the right to live in Britain and escape Chinese rule in 1997.

James Walker, of Goring Heath, Berkshire, was found guilty after a three-week trial at Southwark Crown Court of conspiracy to use false documents, conspiracy to defraud the Home Office by providing false information on passport applications and falsely certifying on applications that the applicants were known to him.

Walker, 48, and a barrister, Paul Samrai, 37, of Warwick, who earlier admitted one charge of conspiracy to use false documents, will be sentenced on Tuesday.

Samrai ran the main operation from the offices of Opportunities UK Ltd, based in Hong Kong, while Walker used the name of his firm, Brain and Brain of Covent Garden, to convince the Home Office that the applications were legitimate.

Businessmen, doctors and lawyers were duped into believing they qualified for British citizenship due to a "discretionary rule" that did not exist. They paid Opportunities UK up to £40,000 for their applications to be submitted directly to the Home Office without having to go through consulates in Hong Kong. The

criteria for right of abode in this country is to have lived here for five years before 1983 or to have lived here continuously for ten years.

Samrai, who gave evidence for the prosecution, told the court the agency had originally been supposed to be legitimate. When it transpired that most of their clients did not qualify for citizenship, they launched a "criminal enterprise" so as to "save face" and protect their investments.

Samrai, who had never practised at the Bar but set himself up as an immigration specialist, persuaded the Home Office to change their policy on not accepting photocopies of vital documents by promising papers would be certified by a solicitor of the Supreme Court (Walker) and legitimised by the Foreign Office. Papers that had been altered or made up were readily accepted by the Home Office.

Walker admitted he had done wrong by certifying copy documents without seeing the originals and countersigning passport applications claiming to have known the applicants for years when he had not, but claimed he did not realise the significance of his actions.

Outside court, Detective Sergeant Keith Butler said the Home Office had not yet decided if the 40 passports issued illegally would be revoked.

Lorry-driving peer loses his licence

By KATE ALDERSON

LORD Harlech, one of the biggest landowners in the Welsh borders, was fined £1,400 and banned from driving for 22 months yesterday for firearms and drink-driving offences.

Francis David Harlech, 40, whose financial difficulties have forced him to drive a lorry and carry out his own repairs on his 8,000-acre estate, admitted possession of three guns, one of them loaded, and driving while two and a half times the legal alcohol limit.

Magistrates at Bala, Gwynedd, fined him £400 for drink-driving and £1,000 for possessing firearms in a public place. Lord Harlech, of Oswestry, Shropshire, was stopped by police on a remote road in Snowdonia on September 3.



Harlech: £1,400 fine and 22-month ban

tember 3. Tom Morgan Jones, for the prosecution, told the court that police officers smelled alcohol on his breath and saw three guns on the passenger seat of his Mercedes.

Michael Bowes, for the defence, said Lord Harlech had been moving the guns from one part of his estate to another.

He said that Lord Harlech, who is married with two children, owned and managed estates at Brogymryn, near Oswestry, and at Glyn, near Harlech. It was difficult to make money from the estates, which include 60 tenanted properties, and Lord Harlech worked long hours on repairs, working as a sheep farmer and driving a lorry.

"It might be thought that a person owning and managing two estates has great access to huge wealth," Mr Bowes said. "That is not so at all." He added that there was a 70-mile journey between the two main estates and that losing his driving licence would cause Lord Harlech further financial difficulties.

Lord Harlech was also charged with possessing cannabis but the court was told that the prosecution had dropped the charge after he was cautioned.

Lord Harlech said afterwards: "It is going to be very difficult."

Princess meets killer at Broadmoor

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess of Wales cast aside her self-imposed purdah again yesterday to make a three-hour private visit to Broadmoor, the Berkshire high-security hospital that houses the mentally and criminally disturbed.

As patron of Turning Point, the charity that rehabilitates drug and alcohol addicts and the mentally ill, the Princess had asked to see at first hand its work in helping Broadmoor patients to return to society. What she saw was the hospital's highest-security women's ward, where she met and talked to all 16 patients, including a woman who had murdered her two sons and others who had been admitted after self-mutilation.

Last year the Princess declared that she was withdrawing from public life to

escape the intolerable media pressure. But she retains a talent for stealing her estranged husband's thunder with occasional well-timed visits to her favoured good causes: the Prince is currently in Los Angeles visiting deprived inner-city areas and supporting a British cultural festival.

During her visit, which was originally intended to last only an hour, the Princess was accompanied by a squad of hospital security staff to protect her from the many patients who have a record of violence. There was, in the event, no trouble, and she talked in relaxed fashion to a number of female patients.

Because yesterday's visit was private, with no media present, she was able to penetrate much more deeply into the mysterious and often misunderstood world of a special hospital, whose

inmates include Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper. Jeanette Hewitt, a clinical area manager, who introduced the royal visitor to the patients of Burnley ward, said that the Princess had been on good form, joking with patients that her pearl necklace was a fake.

"They have seen pictures of her in the newspapers, of course, but it was nice for them to see her in the flesh. She is a very approachable, caring person. She responded to them very well."

Later the Princess joined a discussion with staff at Broadmoor's education centre, where the issue of the high number of assaults on staff by the patients of Burnley ward was carefully avoided. Turning Point has a programme of helping former Broadmoor patients to return to life in the outside world.

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Doctors' rebellion forces trust director to resign

By KATE ALDERSON

THE medical director of a beleaguered NHS hospital resigned from his post yesterday after consultants threatened to pass a vote of no-confidence in the hospital's management board.

Nearly 60 consultants, all members of Burnley General Hospital's medical advisory committee, have accused the hospital's management board of a bullying, confrontational and insensitive management style.

Consultants at the Lancashire Hospital, who have already issued two votes of no-confidence in Dr Sam Pickens, the medical director, gave the management board until lunchtime yesterday to remove him from his post. He will return to work at the hospital as a full-time consultant physician.

At a meeting of the consultants' committee yesterday Dr Pickens announced that he was resigning as medical director, a post he has held for a year, but refused to make any further comment. In a written statement the board said it had reluctantly accepted Dr

Pickens's resignation. "Dr Pickens advised the board that he recognised the present divisive dispute between the board and the medical advisory committee was having a detrimental effect on the smooth running of the trust and the moral of all staff and patients," the statement said.

The trust has been embroiled in controversy since it was established in 1992 and the consultants' threat of a no-confidence vote had left the board facing an extension of a bitter and publicly aired dispute.

In early September consultants sought the resignation of Dr Pickens after they accused him of failing to consult them on medical issues. Two weeks later Dr Pickens was one of two senior staff who made redundant Dr Ian Mahady, a senior obstetrician, allegedly with three hours' notice.

Last Friday Maggie Aikman, chief executive of the trust, was asked to resign by the chairman. It is understood that she was asked to do so because of her handling of the Mahady affair. The North



Dr Peter Ehrhardt led the protests

West Regional Health Authority became so alarmed by the divisive dispute between consultants and management that it sent a team of specialists to the hospital two days ago to monitor patient care. On Wednesday it told the trust: "Stop squabbling in public and start restoring confidence in your hospital."

The NWRHA has been working behind the scenes, through the district health authority, to heal the rift and its spokesman, Hugh Lamont, said yesterday he was satisfied that patient care had not been affected by the dispute. "The

trust's board of directors must start building bridges and restore morale and public confidence in the hospital," Mr Lamont said. "Hopefully the curtain has now been drawn on this very sorry squabble."

The board has agreed to a range of consultation meetings with medical staff who will be allowed a representative at board meetings. Dr Peter Ehrhardt, chairman of the medical advisory committee, welcomed Dr Pickens's resignation and said many problems had now been solved. "We look forward to working with the board and we are confident that we will be able to provide better care for patients," Dr Ehrhardt said.

He said the board had pursued an aggressive management policy and denied that consultants had "held a gun to the board's head". He added: "We have had a situation where there has been insufficient representation of professionals, not just doctors and nurses, but other groups at management level. This has now been understood by board members."



Dr Sam Pickens arrives for the meeting at Burnley General Hospital. He was ousted by consultants

Bill on criminal justice passed after rough ride

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most controversial Criminal Justice Bills of the past decade received Royal Assent yesterday after a rough ride in Parliament and as protests continue to erupt outside.

Michael Howard's Bill, which has provoked widespread opposition over its proposed treatment of young offenders and tougher public order laws, is significantly watered down from its original form.

Yesterday Mr Howard, the Home Secretary, said it contained 19 of the 27 measures he announced at last year's Conservative Party conference. The measures, which will come into force in stages, would be "an important weapon in the fight against crime".

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 deals with young offenders, bail, court procedures, DNA, prevention of terrorism, obscenity, pornography, prison services, public order and sexual offences and curbs a suspect's right to silence. Apart from controversial measures giving police new powers to deal with squatters, trespassers and ravers, other measures include a definition of rape in marriage, scrap criminal proceedings and lower of age of homosexual consent to 18.

The Bill provides a new sentence of a secure training order for 12 to 14-year-olds, empowers the Home Secretary to build secure training centres and gives courts power to remand 12 to 14-year-olds in local authority secure accommodation. Courts will have

tougher sentencing powers for 15 to 17-year-olds and will be able to sentence children and young people to long periods of detention in a wider category of cases.

Other provisions include removal of the right to bail for someone charged with an offence while on bail, and police have the power to take non-invasive body samples for DNA analysis from anyone charged with a recordable offence. Police also have wider powers of search on arrest.

ROAD PROTESTS

Hundreds of civil rights protesters gathered on the site of the M11 link road in east London to challenge the new Criminal Justice Act.

Members of the M11 Link campaign and objectors to the Act joined up at Wansford to commit the new offence of "aggravated trespass", but police said they viewed the action as a farce.

which will include a person's mouth, and powers to mount 24-hour stop-and-search operations where there are reasonable grounds for believing serious violence may have taken place.

Public order measures include new police powers to order trespassers to leave land and to remove their vehicles if they refuse; to stop raves and to tackle "aggravated and mass trespass".

Politics, page 11

Black Rod ushers out stormy session

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

BLACK Rod's traditional tap on the door of the Commons chamber to summon MPs for the formal announcement of the adjournment yesterday marked the end of one of the most tumultuous parliamentary sessions of recent years.

Early optimism generated by progress towards peace in Northern Ireland and Kenneth Clarke's well-received debut autumn Budget was soon overshadowed by the succession of sex and finance scandals involving Tory MPs. The session was also notable for speculation over the future of John Major as his poll ratings stuck obstinately at rock bottom and for the rise of Tony Blair after the death of John Smith.

The Government weathered two disastrous national election campaigns in which the

Tories lost hundreds of local government seats and saw their representation at Strasbourg reduced to a rump of 18 MEPs.

At Westminster the Government's majority was reduced to 15 in June after another by-election disaster in Eastleigh. In October this was pared down to 14 by the death of Dr John Blackburn, the MP for marginal Dudley West.

The Government's legislative programme was wide-ranging and controversial, including Bills on Sunday trading, the abolition of bureaucratic burdens on business and preparation for the privatisation of British Coal.

A private member's Bill on civil rights for disabled people received cross-party support but was blocked by loyalist Tory backbenchers.

Pillock

Nerd

Spastic

Moron

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THE TIMES Lottery Prize Draw

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Tickets for the National Lottery go on sale on Monday November 14, and with a top prize of £2m expected when the first draw takes place on Saturday November 19, lottery fever is starting to grip the nation. The Times, in association with The Sunday Times, is offering readers an additional chance to become overnight millionaires with our great lottery tickets prize draw.

Week four of our competition offers you the chance to win up to 10,000 lottery tickets to be purchased on your behalf. Each has a one in 54 chance of winning a prize.

Our teams of ticket buyers will purchase 21,000 official lottery tickets on behalf of our winning readers with randomly generated numbers for entry into the November 19 prize draw.

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FIRST PRIZE 10,000 £1 tickets, second prize 2,000 £1 tickets, third prize 1,000 £1 tickets
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To enter the prize draw, simply collect 10 lottery tokens from The Times and The Sunday Times. The first token was printed in The Times on October 8 and further tokens are appearing each day this week in The Times and have appeared in The Sunday Times, giving you a total of 40 tokens and enabling you to make four individual entries in our 21,000 lottery tickets prize draw. When you have collected 10 tokens send them on the form below or save all 40 tokens and send them with the bonus entry form which will appear on November 5.

No purchase is necessary. Full terms and conditions will appear periodically in The Times.



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Rimington signals shift of role

MI5 supports closer links with police

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE security service is ready to take on further intelligence investigations to back up the police in criminal inquiries, Stella Rimington, director-general of MI5, indicated last night.

Addressing senior police officers, Mrs Rimington praised the co-operation that had developed between MI5 and the Special Branch in fighting terrorism. MI5 took on the lead intelligence role against the IRA on the mainland in 1992.

The use of MI5's "secret sources and techniques" with Special Branch expertise had in the past years produced "very significant dividends" in countering terrorism, "not all of them visible to the general public", she said.

MI5 had also become more closely involved in the criminal justice process, with security service officers giving evidence in court far more often than in the past.

Although Mrs Rimington has in the past ruled out MI5 involvement in police investigations into drug-trafficking or organised crime unless such plots threatened national security, her lecture last night indicated that she sees benefits in closer links with the police.

She said: "The police and the security service have shown clearly over recent years that they can provide



Rimington: praised anti-terrorist work

Loyalist terror groups, MI5 has been gearing itself for an evolving role and there has been speculation that the organisation might become more closely involved in other more traditional police areas.

However, security sources emphasised that Mrs Rimington's position on the question of crime investigation had not changed. In her Dimbleby lecture earlier this year, she referred only to the threat crime might pose to national security.

The audience in the City of London for her James Smart Memorial Lecture (in honour of the first Chief Constable of Glasgow), included Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, and Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Mrs Rimington rejected the idea of a national counter-terrorist force. She said experience had shown that a large number of agencies and organisations could co-operate effectively without having a centralised body.

one another with mutual assistance and support. Criminal investigation can be a valuable focus for intelligence work and equally intelligence can be converted into evidence. The two organisations complement one another."

Mrs Rimington said it was wrong and misleading to attempt to make too sharp a distinction between information and intelligence. "Along with its aim of countering threats to national security, the security service is fully committed to supporting the police in detecting and preventing crime and preserving law and order," she said.

MI5 would, "where appropriate", use its intelligence resources to collect evidence in support of a prosecution.

Since the end of the Cold War and the announcement of a ceasefire by the IRA and



Brown: next seat

Prince and his critic act as play mates

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

THE Prince of Wales spent a night at the theatre on Wednesday, seated beside one of his most scathing media critics in the United States.

The Prince spent the three-hour performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Henry VI Part 3* seated thigh to thigh with Tina Brown, the British journalist who once described him in *Vanity Fair* as "pusshywhipped", "frugal to the point of meanness" and



The Prince meeting the actor Pierce Brosnan, the new James Bond, and his girlfriend at the reception

"a lonely, eccentric figure, haunted by self-doubt".

Ms Brown was attending the performance in her capacity as editor of *The New Yorker* and a benefactor of the RSC, which is touring the United States this month. She also hosted a reception at the interval during which observers noted that she ap-

peared less than relaxed. "It is a little nerve-racking for her," the actor Pierce Brosnan said afterwards. "But she acquitted herself grandly from what I could hear."

The Prince flies to Hong Kong today at the end of a five-day visit to Los Angeles. After two days of determined-

ly worthy visits to deprived black and Mexican areas, he toured an art gallery yesterday with the expatriate British artist David Hockney and congratulated two successful British businesses.

The Prince has been welcomed enthusiastically by small crowds at most stops on his schedule, but has

nevertheless failed to ignite more than passing interest in the American media. One British reporter working for a Los Angeles television station complained yesterday that, despite obtaining two brief soundbites from the Prince, his report was buried in the fortieth minute of a 50-minute news programme.

Spastics Society puts its future in Scope

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Spastics Society announced yesterday that in future it will be known as Scope. The change, which has cost the charity £175,000, has been introduced because of the way in which its name has been used as a term of abuse.

The name Scope was chosen from a list of 40 possibilities put forward by the corporate branding company responsible for McVities Hobnab biscuits. John Murphy, chairman of Interbrand, which also came up with Homebase for Sainsbury's and Mondeo for Ford, said the new name was "optimistic and engaging". "Some people argued for a name like the Cerebral Palsy Society but we felt they needed something much snappier. Scope also starts with the same letter as the old name, which is useful for the logo, and has C and P in it for cerebral palsy."

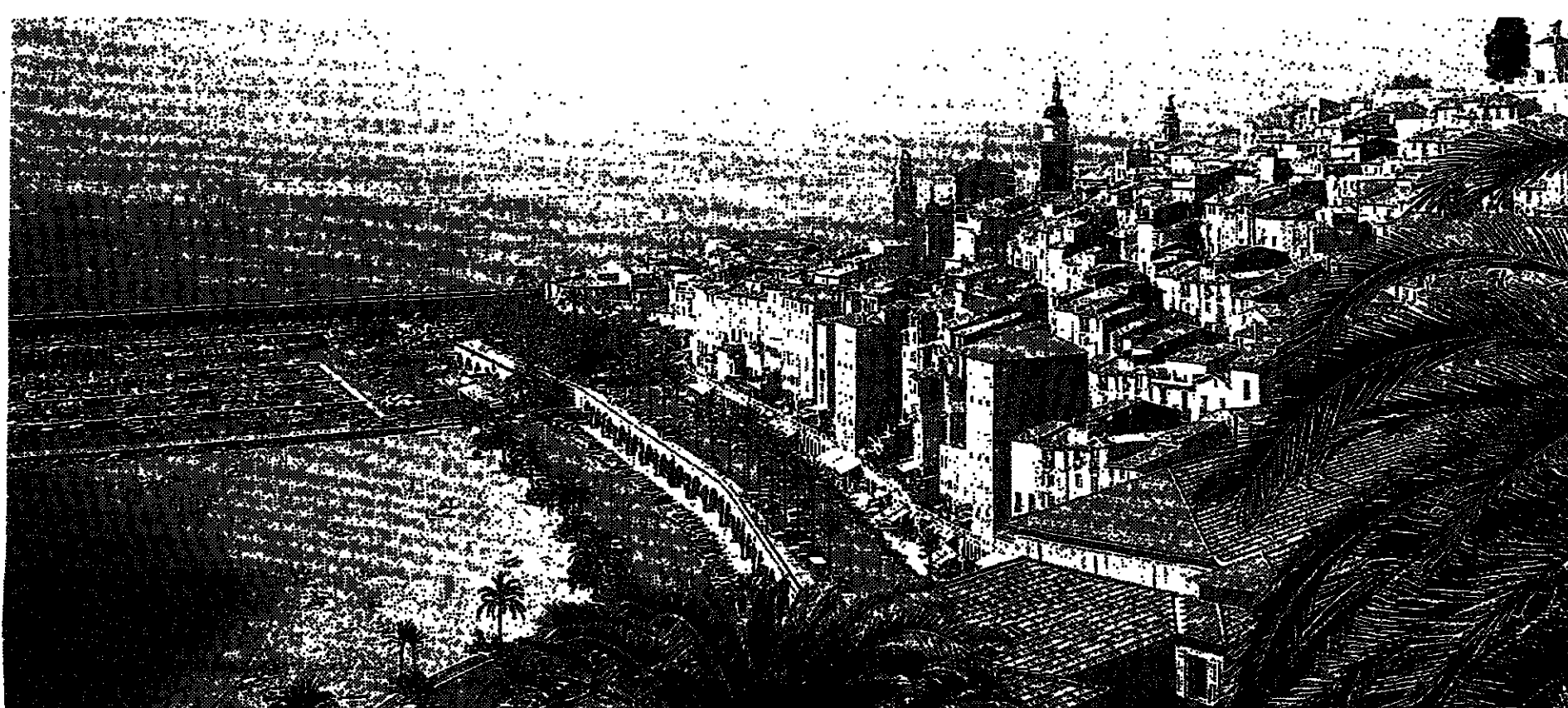
Parents who founded the Spastics Society in 1952, which has a turnover of £75 million,

rejected the name Cerebral Palsy Society because "palsy" had unpleasant associations. Other rejected names included Action CP and Action Disability. "People didn't want to be medically defined," said a spokeswoman.

A survey of 1,500 disabled people published by the society yesterday found that four in ten had been called names because of their affliction. Two-thirds said they found the process of being assessed by social workers "humiliating and dehumanising".

The survey, *Disabled in Britain: a World Apart*, also found that one in three people had been turned away from cinemas because of their disability and three quarters could not afford the equipment they needed to be fully independent.

Ann Robinson, chief executive, said: "Words make a difference but what is more important is the work ahead to end discrimination."



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European Trips**	3	4	7	9	20	43	25	72	25	69	
Domestic Trips**	5	9	12	22	32	114	41	182	42	184	

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'Forces' boxing in balance after brain damage report

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE future of amateur boxing in the armed services is under review after a five-year investigation by Royal Naval neurosurgeons has provided new evidence of risks from brain damage.

The study by doctors at the Haslar Royal Naval Hospital in Gosport, Hampshire, is to be published in *The Lancet* next month. Surgeons at the hospital compared the brain scans and reactions of about 40 boxers drawn from the Navy, Army and Royal Marines, and two control groups of fit non-boxing servicemen. The doctors say that their investigation is the first in the world to prove the dangerous effects of amateur boxing.

The results showed that boxers were more likely to suffer brain defects than people of the same age, sex and intelligence who had never taken part in the sport. The report also claims that boxers react more slowly than people in the control groups and that problems increase with the number of bouts.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the report was being examined by all three services but that more

research would be needed before a decision was taken on the sport's future.

A spokesman said the rules covering service boxing were even stricter than those laid down by the Amateur Boxing Association. These include strict limits on the weight of boxing gloves and a thorough medical check before and after a fight.

The MoD official emphasised that all boxing in the services was voluntary and it was unlikely that the sport would be banned. International champions such as Henry Cooper at heavyweight and

Terry Marsh at light-welterweight were both army amateurs winning titles as professionals. Every regiment has a boxing team of about 18.

The Haslar investigation was an "in-house" study and recommendations on boxing in the services would not necessarily involve a decision by ministers, the MoD said.

Previous studies have been questioned for their method of studying brain scans and criticised for their selection of control groups. However, the Haslar researchers believe they have eliminated the diffi-

culties of earlier investigations. They used a computer program to assess the scans and compared the boxers with fit, non-boxing men in the armed services.

Captain Murdo Macleod, head of Haslar's nuclear medicine department, said: "The facts are unassailable. We carried out brain scans to measure cerebral perfusion in 34 boxers comparing them with other fit young servicemen and each method produced a significant difference, to the detriment of the boxers."

The doctors at Haslar found blows to the head restricted the supply of blood and oxygen to different parts of the brain. Responses of the boxers, ranging from movement and feeling to speed of thought, were affected.

Terry Marsh, the former Royal Marine who won four combined services titles, said that it would be "a pity" if boxing were banned from the armed services. But he added: "I have to defer to the wisdom of those who have done the work. However, the services will certainly not collapse without boxing."

Moorer profile, page 42



Henry Cooper: army boxing champion



Terry Marsh: "The experts know best"



Anne Diamond is congratulated by her co-presenter Nick Owen after announcing yesterday that she is expecting her fifth baby. Ms Diamond, 40, of BBC's *Good Morning With Anne and Nick*, has three sons aged seven, five and 18 months, but lost a

Diamond's little gem

fourth baby in a cot death in 1991. She and her husband Mike Hollingsworth, a television executive, are said to be

hoping for a girl. Jon Roseman, her agent, said: "I'm sure she'll only have a few days off." A BBC spokesman said: "I am sure viewers will be keen to follow progress. She showed her last baby on air a few days after it was born."

Evacuees 'passed on leukaemia'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE evacuation of millions of children from London and other towns during the Second World War resulted in a surge in deaths from childhood leukaemia in the rural areas where they were billeted, researchers have found.

Death rates from the disease were up to 47 per cent higher in country areas that had taken in children fleeing the bombs. Among five to 14-year-olds, death rates were up to 90 per cent higher.

The finding provides further evidence that childhood leukaemia is caused by an infection. The Government's evacuation programme during the war would have exposed rural children to urban youngsters carrying the infection. Rural children are more susceptible to infections because they have less exposure to other children's infections.

The study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, compared death rates from leukaemia in rural counties with high and low numbers of evacuees. Those with high proportions of evacuees, such as Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, had the highest death rates.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South North-South game

♠ 10 9 8 4	♥ 10 9
♦ 9 8 7 5 2	♠ A Q 10 2
♣ 7 6	♥ 10 9 8 3 2
	♠ K 8 2
	♥ K 8 6
	♦ J 8 5
	♠ A J 5
	♥ A 7 3
	♦ A J 4
	♠ K 7 5 3
	♥ K Q 4

S W N E
1NT (1) Pass 2NT Pass
3NT All pass
Opening lead ♠ J

(1) Strong NT (15-17)

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

West leads the jack of spades to the queen, king and a small one from South. East continues with the six of spades, ducked again and the defence plays a third round. What should South do when he wins the ace of spades?

It looks from East's play of the six of spades followed by the three that the spades are 5-3 (with four East would return his original fourth highest). In that case South has to hope that East has the ace of clubs. When this hand was originally played, declarer thought he had three entries to dummy: the ace, queen and ten of diamonds. He crossed to the queen of diamonds, and

played a club to the king. Now he played the king of diamonds, suddenly finding out that one of the entries had disappeared, and with East holding the ace-queen of clubs there was no way he could recover.

The better line is to play king and a small diamond at tricks four and five. If the diamonds break 3-2, or 4-1 with East having four, South has three entries to lead up to the king-queen of clubs twice and cash dummy's long clubs. When East shows out on the second diamond, the entry position is such that the declarer can only lead clubs once from dummy: now the percentage play in clubs is to run the ten on the first round, and that brings home the contract.



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Britons abroad

In the tradition of Renaissance condottieri, the leaders of mercenary bands of military adventurers, British grandmasters regularly compete for foreign clubs in their national chess competitions. John Nunn and Murray Chandler both play for teams in the German Bundesliga, while the London grandmaster Jon Speelman has helped the Spanish club Goya to win the Spanish club championship, which has just finished in Menorca. During the course of the competition, Speelman won the following line game.

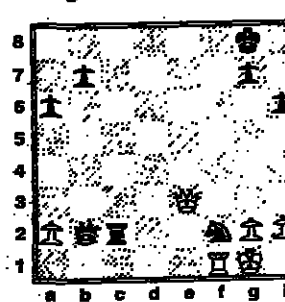
White: Daniel Campora
Black: Jon Speelman
Spanish Championship,
October 1994

French Defence

1 e4	e5
2 d4	c5
3 e5	Nc6
4 c3	Bd7
5 Nf3	Bxc5
6 dxc5	g6
7 Bc3	h5
8 Qe2	Nxe5
9 Qxe5	Nf6
10 O-O	O-O
11 Be3	Bb6
12 Bc4	Be7
13 Bc5	h6
14 Qf4	e5
15 Bc5	e4
16 Be2	f7
17 Be2	f6
18 f4	Bb6
19 Bc3	Ba3
20 Qc2	Bg4
21 Qe3	Qa5
22 Bb5	Qa6
23 Na3	a6
24 Be2	Bxe2
25 Qxe2	Qc6+
26 Kf1	e3

27 Rd1	Ne4
28 Rxc5	N2+
29 Kg1	Rd4
30 Rf4	Rc4
31 Qc4	Qc4
32 Nc2	Qx2
33 Qa3	Rxc2
White resigns	

Diagram of final position



After 34 Qe6+ Kh7 35 Qf5+ g6 36 Qf7+ Qg7 Black wins easily.

Stamton Society

The inaugural dinner of the Stamton Society, held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, London, on Tuesday, was attended by, among others, Sir Brian Tovey KCMG and Lady Tovey, Donald Woods, Barry Martin and the grandmasters Jon Speelman, Daniel King and David Norwood.

A 1762 copy of Philidor's *Chess Analysis* raised £375 at auction to go towards erecting a fitting headstone for Howard Stamton (1810-1874), Britain's leading player of the 19th century, who currently lies in an unmarked grave in Kensal Green cemetery, north London. The Philidor was bought by Malcolm Pein of *Chess Monthly* magazine.

Winning Move, page 48

INDECISIVE WOMAN, 33, seeks fixed rate mortgage. Then again, the discounted variable rate mortgage isn't bad, either...

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Butterfly collector guilty of trapping endangered species

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A BUTTERFLY collector was convicted of trapping and selling a rare species in the first successful prosecution of its kind in Britain.

Trevor Carter, 46, was found guilty by Leicester magistrates on Wednesday of possessing 14 wild-caught chequered skippers for sale and fined £490 plus £80 in costs. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, the chequered skipper (*Carterocephalus palaemon*) is one of 25 British butterflies that can be traded legally only if they have been bred in captivity.

Carter, of Boston, Lincolnshire, was noticed by police and wildlife officials trying to sell the butterflies at the annual Entomological Fair in Leicester last December.

Another man, Roald Crouthers, 66, of Dorking, Surrey, was convicted of offering seven chequered skippers for sale at the same fair, but was conditionally discharged

for a year and ordered to pay £80 costs. Magistrates accepted that he had bought the butterflies from Carter in good faith, believing them to have been bred legally.

David Sheppard, an invertebrate ecologist with English Nature, said: "Our suspicions were aroused because it is very difficult to rear chequered skippers in captivity. It is very sad that there are still a few people who want to collect wild butterflies for trade, particularly as they are risking a great deal for very little."

Chequered skippers come on the market legally quite often when old collections are broken up and do not fetch more than about £3 each, whereas the maximum fine for selling wild-caught ones is £5,000 per specimen. Carter was fined £35 a specimen.

Patrick Roper, of Butterfly Conservation, said: "There is certainly not much money in the illegal trade. It seems that

some people get a buzz from demonstrating their ability to find and trap rare specimens. Hopefully, this fine will deter any others who may be tempted."

Carter caught the chequered skippers at Loch Arkiaig, north of Fort William in the Highland region of Scotland, the only area of Britain where this species is now found. The last sizeable population in England, in the East Midlands, became extinct in the mid-1970s.

Jeremy Thomas, an entomologist at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Wareham, Dorset, said: "The loss of coppiced woodland and more intensive management of grassland are thought to be part of the reason for the chequered skipper's decline, but other factors, such as disease, may have played a role too."

Britain has about 55 permanently resident species of but-



The large chequered skipper, which can be seen in the wild only in the Highland region of Scotland

terfly. Over the past 150 years, five species, the large copper, the mazarine blue, the large blue, the black-veined white and the large tortoiseshell have disappeared. Attempts to

re-establish the large blue by importing Swedish stock have had some success.

Even more endangered than the chequered skipper is the high brown fritillary,

which was familiar and widespread in England until the 1950s. Since then the number of 10-kilometre squares in which it is recorded has dropped from 492 to 29, a

decline of 94 per cent. Entomologists say the high brown will be lost as a British butterfly by the turn of the century if the current rate of decline continues unchecked.

Suspended jail term for officer

A constable who crashed his car while having twice the legal alcohol limit in his blood and then told police his wife had been driving received a six-month suspended jail sentence yesterday.

PC Simon Leary, 30, who served at Millgarth with West Yorkshire Police, faces a disciplinary hearing and possible dismissal after admitting at York Crown Court to acts intended to pervert the course of justice. John Sleightholme, for the prosecution, said Leary had feared he would lose his job if he was breathalysed.

Gerald Lumley, for the defence, said Leary had wanted a career in the police since childhood and had acted in a moment of madness.

Briton seeks new lawyer

Nigel Garward, on trial in Manila on drug smuggling charges and facing a possible death penalty, dismissed his court-appointed lawyer, saying he had lost confidence in him. Mr Garward, who was arrested at Manila airport after heroin was allegedly found in his luggage, told the court he would hire another lawyer.

A British diplomat said the embassy had given Mr Garward a list of lawyers and that his family in London was trying to raise money for his defence.

Fifth death

The death toll from Sunday's road crash in Harlow, Essex has risen to five. Sarah Watkinson, 20, who died in hospital, was from Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, as were the other victims. Paul Corbett, 20, and his sister Julie, 18, Gillian Pestle, 17, and Peter Townsend, 23, who was driving, died instantly.

Parents bailed

The parents of a five-year-old boy who died in a fire at his Basildon home in July appeared in court charged with manslaughter. Peter Hogg, 49, a farmhand, and his wife Caroline, 33, of Wickford, Essex, are also accused of arson. Basildon magistrates granted them conditional bail.

Pope meeting

The Pope received the Duchess of Kent in the Vatican. Officials took the unusual step of issuing her biography, which stated that she converted to Roman Catholicism in a private ceremony in Westminster Cathedral on January 14.

Wren Wren

Anne-Marie Bilsdon, one of the first Wrens to volunteer for service in warships, has married Leading Seaman Stephen Wren. She is now known as Wren Wren.

Embryo find in desert clears dinosaur of egg stealing

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



How *Oviraptor* might have looked

THE discovery of a baby dinosaur still inside its egg in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia has caused the history of a group of dinosaurs to be rewritten.

Far from being egg-stealers — as their name, *Oviraptor*, implies — they were devoted parents, protecting their eggs as birds do. The conclusion comes from the examination of the first *Oviraptor* embryo ever found, which is described in this week's edition of *Science* by a team from the American Museum of Natural History and Mongolian colleagues. The

egg-stealers, fast-moving, medium-sized dinosaurs with clawed feet, were named by George Olsen, also from the American Museum, who discovered remains in the Gobi Desert in 1923. He found the fossils of one group of dinosaurs apparently feasting on the eggs of another.

He called the species *Oviraptor philoceratops* ("egg-stealer, fond of ceratops' eggs") on the assumption that the eggs were those of the commonest dinosaur in the vicinity, the horn-faced *Protoceratops*.

Last year, Mark Norell, dinosaur curator at the museum, found the tiny skeleton of an *Oviraptor*, dating from

about 75 million years ago, poking through an egg at another site in the Gobi. The egg was identical to those found by Mr Olsen. "Rather than eating the eggs, they were incubating them or protecting them, because they were their own eggs," Dr Norell says. That casts a new light altogether on *Oviraptor*, which may have been misnamed for the past 70 years.

If so, scientists will have to revise their view of the creature's powerful beak, which has been compared to a parrot's. Just as the parrot uses its beak to crush nuts, so *Oviraptor* was supposed to use its strong jaw and beak to crack eggs. Near the same nest

were remains of embryos of another type of dinosaur, the *Velociraptor*, the swift predator of *Jurassic Park*. The fossilised jaws of those creatures contained tiny, peg-like teeth that are also found in some early birds. Adult *Velociraptors* had vicious, sharp teeth for tearing their prey to shreds.

That find has interested specialists in bird evolution, as it is often the case that species evolve by retaining the infantile characteristics of their ancestors — a process called neotony. That the earliest birds had the same peg-like teeth as infant *Velociraptors* is further evidence that modern birds are indeed living dinosaurs.

Song on TV 'drove man to murder'

A MAN killed his neighbour to prove he wasn't spineless after hearing the country and western song "Coward of the County" on television, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

After allegedly stabbing and throttling John Driscoll, 46, Alexander King, 32, was said to have boasted to a woman: "I killed John. I was watching 'Coward of the County'. I set there thinking if I could do it or not. I just got up and did it." John Hilton, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr King later told a publican: "I wanted to prove I was not a coward." The killing had happened in Mr Driscoll's flat in Deptford, southeast London, where Mr King was watching television, Mr Hilton said.

After he boasted to the woman about the killing, she told police that Mr King had allegedly said that if he had been half-way home, he would have killed Mr Driscoll when he returned to the flat to "finish him off".

The woman was so shocked by the story that she went to the flat to investigate. Mr Hilton said she found the lifeless body of Mr Driscoll in a chair. Police arrested Mr King the same night.

Mr King, also of Deptford, has denied murdering Mr Driscoll on March 24 this year. His plea of guilty to manslaughter was not accepted by the prosecution.

The trial continues.

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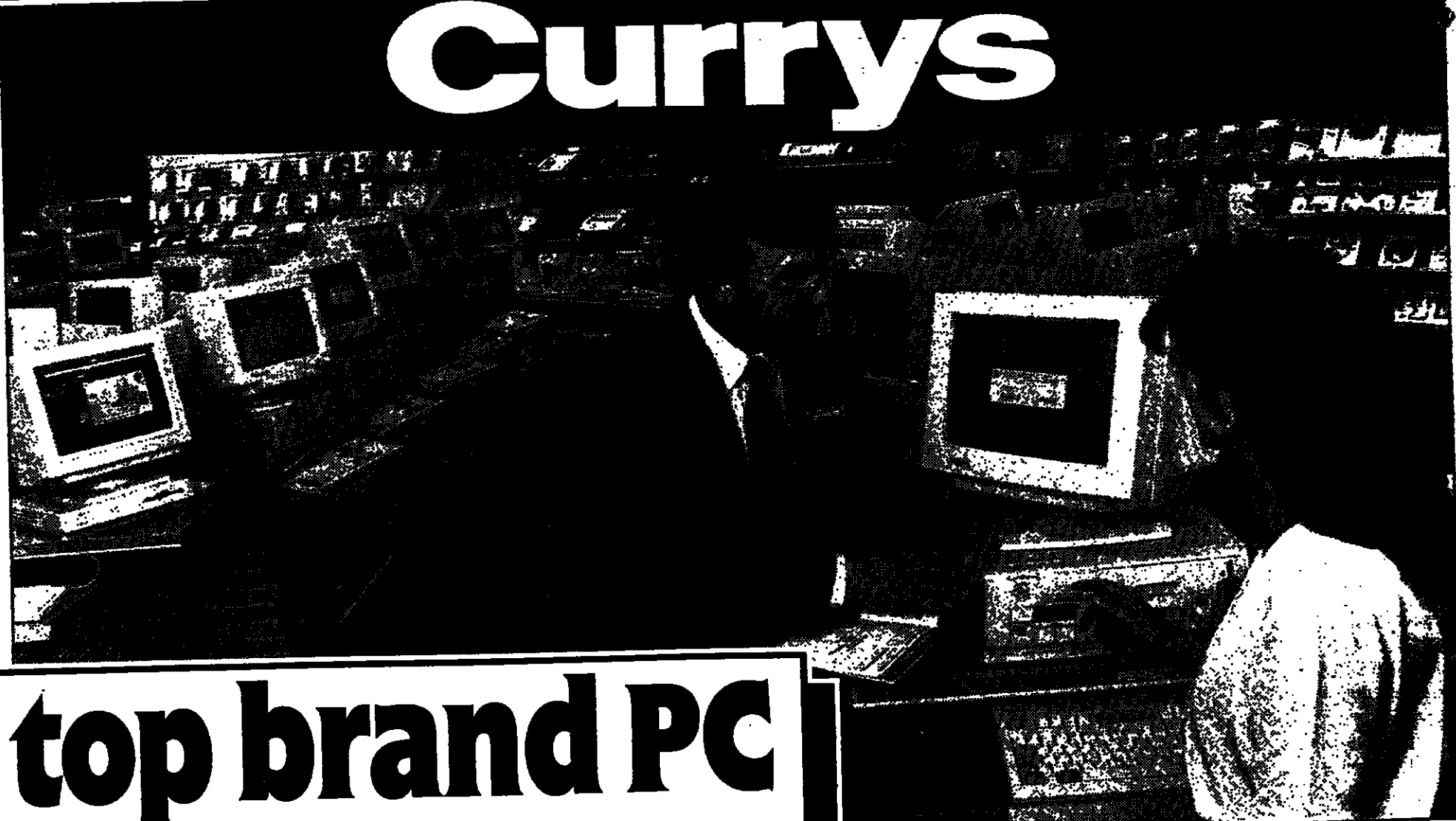
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Minister
summoned
to discuss
cut plan

Ministers summoned to discuss tax cut plans

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

A CABINET meeting has been called next week to discuss plans for sweeping cutbacks in public spending aimed at funding tax cuts before the general election.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, have both cancelled trips abroad to attend Tuesday's meeting, where Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will present proposals from the EDX special spending committee. The committee, chaired by Mr Clarke, is expected to recommend shaving £2.4 billion off the planned £263 billion target set for next year, to allow for tax cuts the following year.

Mr Rifkind was due to visit Bosnia and Mr Hurd was planning a week-long trip to East Africa. However, next week's meeting will give spending ministers their first opportunity to argue their corner in Cabinet over Mr Clarke's plans.

If ministers fail to agree on Tuesday they will have another chance to debate the proposals at Thursday's Cabinet, when a settlement could be reached. The Treasury is pressing for an early decision as there is only a month to go before the Budget.

The Chancellor is also likely to propose tougher restraints in spending in the run-up to the next general election. Provisional spending levels of £272.3 billion in 1996/97 and £281 billion in 1997/98 have been set but these may be revised downwards next week.

Mr Clarke has more flexibility this year as inflation, at 2.25 per cent, is much less than the 3.25 per cent assumed for 1994/95. Unemployment is also now 2.5 million, rather than the 2.75 million assumed in last year's Budget Red Book, releasing over £1 billion to the Exchequer.

Mr Clarke is under pressure from senior Tory backbenchers to implement at least £2 billion in tax cuts to help poorer groups in this month's

Budget, by raising personal allowance thresholds.

However, Mr Clarke has signalled that any cuts in the basic rate of income tax will have to be delayed till at least next year. He will tell the Cabinet that his priority now is retaining the confidence of the City by squeezing inflation and state borrowing.

The EDX programme is expected to include thousands of Civil Service and local government job losses as part of a draconian clampdown on running costs across Whitehall departments.

Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who masterminded the defence department's cost cutting exercise last year, is also said to have secured savings by restricting capital projects such as new schools, hospital buildings and roads.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, is believed to have safeguarded a small real-terms increase in health spending, though this could prove to be a cut on the original plans for next year.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, is expected to deliver big savings in his £2 billion training budget but Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is finding it difficult to meet Mr Aitken's demand for cuts in the £8 billion housing benefit Bill.

Mr Lilley is also asking for extra money to fund new measures to help the disabled, which will be included in a new Bill next session. He has, however, agreed to further reductions in State help for unemployed people making mortgage interest payments. Last April he restricted help to those with mortgages up to £125,000. This is likely to be cut much further next year.

Falling unemployment will have a big impact on the public sector borrowing requirement. The Treasury estimates that £425 million is saved for every 100,000 people who leave the unemployment register.



Heroic Heseltine down but not out

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

MICHAEL Heseltine has had a dismal autumn. First, he was upstaged by Michael Portillo at the Tory party conference; second, his planned Post Office privatisation has foundered on the rocks of backbench hostility and the Prime Minister's reluctance to gamble on seeing off the rebels.

So where does this latest rebuff leave the President of the Board of Trade? Is the king of the jungle now little more than a fireside rug, or is he still the man most likely to succeed should John Major fall this side of an election?

Perhaps the strongest criticism to be levelled at Mr

Heseltine is that he failed to foresee the strength of the forces arrayed against him and woke up too late to the threat they posed to his plans for selling off 51 per cent of Royal Mail and Parcelforce.

Several prominent rebels have said in the past few days that the last they heard from him was back in the summer.

Even his friends concede that his imperious manner is hardly conducive to winning over backbench dissidents — many of whom have long written off their chances of preferment and are pretty much immune to threats.

It is suggested that a more patient and painstaking fig-

ure might have been able to cajole enough of the rebels to allow the Government to go ahead. But if Mr Heseltine has been dilatory in building up support, it is surely surprising that the onus has been on him to stitch together a majority. Normally, the Cabinet decides what to do and it is the Chief Whip's job to deliver the vote.

The reversal of this approach leaves the impression that Mr Heseltine, always a loner at Westminster, has been hung out to dry by the party establishment.

After the debacle over the pits — where he had to drop plans for wholesale closures

and eventually accept a compromise package — plus his heart attack in the summer of 1993, Mr Heseltine's stock has rarely seemed lower.

But there is another way of looking at his latest scrape. His followers are mostly from the centre-left but he also draws support from the Right among those who admire his heroic manner and boundless self-confidence.

The Right, of late the more restive wing of the party, was yesterday inclined to look elsewhere for scapegoats, many leading figures feeling the Prime Minister and other ministers could have done more to save the day.

Maverick Tories defied the odds to win PO battle

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

WESTMINSTER was astonished yesterday by the success of fewer than 30 backbenchers in forcing Michael Heseltine to retreat, even before he reached the first hurdle of having his Post Office privatisation plans included in the Queen's Speech.

On past evidence, the band of rebels intent on wrecking the plans should not have struck fear into the heart of the Cabinet. Although John Major's leadership has seen many threats of backbench rebellion, only once since the general election has the Government been unable to quell the unrest.

A succession of U-turns, charm offensives and ruthless threats from whips have been enough to bring potential rebels into line. Threatened revolts on coal pit closures, defence cuts, VAT on domestic fuel, railway privatisation and Britain's European Union voting rights all petered out.

The campaign against Mr Heseltine was led by Hugh Dykes, the Harrow East MP best known for his pro-European fervour, and Sir Keith Speed, the Ashford MP who proved a formidable adversary when forcing the Government to allow British Rail to bid for post-privatisation railway franchises. Behind them filed a troop of backbenchers charitably known as independent-minded and more caustically dismissed as mavericks.

Nicholas Winterdon, a *de facto* leader of the backbench "awkward squad", joined forces with other rebellious MPs. As well as Sir Keith, the

delegation that confronted Mr Heseltine included Gary Walter and Elizabeth Peacock, leader of the campaign against coal mine closures, and Stephen Day, strong opponent of restrictions placed on British Rail under the rail privatisation programme.

The rebels believe that the Board of Trade President's crucial mistake was in making clear, during the consultation period, his preference for selling off 51 per cent of Parcelforce and Royal Mail. One of the rebels said: "That brought us out fighting, whereas it could have been made clear that any of the three options were up for grabs."

Another key to the campaigners' success was their refusal to be "picked off" individually at private meetings with Mr Heseltine. The group insisted on meetings with all the opponents present.

Peter Riddell, page 20



Dykes: led opposition to privatisation plan

Free-thinking Biffen sees wisdom of a timely exit

By Philip Webster, Political Editor



Biffen: retiring after 33 years in Parliament

JOHN BIFFEN, one of only three members of Margaret Thatcher's first Cabinet still in the Commons, announced last night that he will stand down at the next general election.

He told his North Shropshire Conservative association that in politics it was "wiser to leave five minutes too soon than to continue for five years too long".

Mr Biffen, Treasury Chief Secretary, Trade Secretary and Commons Leader in the first two Thatcher parliaments,

chose his sixty-fourth birthday to make his announcement. His departure means that the Commons will lose one of its most popular, independent, candid and sometimes diffident figures who was a rebel on many occasions before and after his eight-year spell in government.

Mr Biffen, an MP for 33 years, has always combined right-wing attitudes on nationality, Europe and the economy with a soft-edged consolidator's approach. It famously got him into trouble in 1986 when he called for the Tories to campaign for their third election victory on a "balanced ticket",

rather than a Thatcher-Tebbit combination.

Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, called him "semi-detached" and "a licensed court jester", rightly seen as a certain pointer to his sacking at the 1987 election.

Mr Biffen's dismissal provoked a rare show of bitterness. He described Baroness Thatcher's style of government as a "sort of Stalinist regime" and warned that he was not "in the business of making life easier for her".

But his free-thinking ways often meant clashes with a Prime Minister who expected to get her way. In her

memoirs, Lady Thatcher recalls his dismissal, observing caustically: "The general balance of the new Cabinet made it clear 'consolidation' was no more my preferred option after the election than before it. John Biffen, whose less than inspiring slogan this had been, left the Cabinet... he had come to prefer commentary to collective responsibility."

Thereafter he was regularly out of sympathy with the Thatcher and Major leaderships. He was a prominent rebel against the poll tax, which helped to bring Lady Thatcher down, and against the Maastricht treaty.

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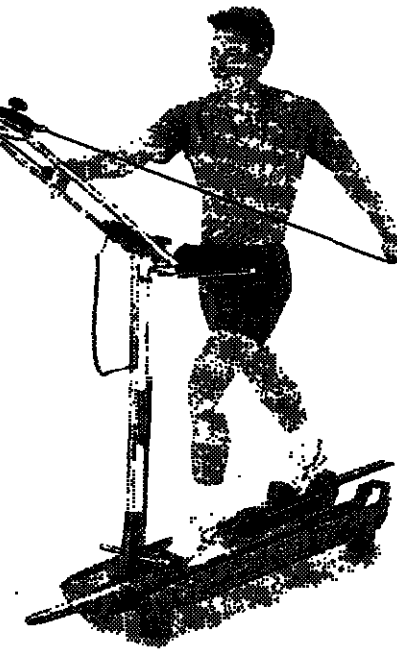
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Lottery puts its fate in the hand of fortune

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Lottery organisers will launch today what they claim is the biggest advertising campaign mounted in Britain.

The campaign begins against a background of warnings from the Methodist Church that the lottery will encourage gambling among those least able to afford it and will largely benefit supporters of the arts, most of whom are already well-off.

The Saatchi & Saatchi advertisements will feature the slogan "It could be you" and will show a giant hand of good fortune roving the country at random to touch the lives of jackpot winners. Camelot, the lottery organiser, hopes that the advertisements will entice people to buy £1 tickets for the chance of becoming a millionaire.

Tickets go on sale on November 14. As well as a jackpot of up to £2 million depending on the week's turnover, Camelot promises hundreds of thousands of other prizes at £10, £65, £1,500 and £100,000. The weekly draw will be broadcast simultaneously on BBC1 and Radio 1. Camelot promises to create millionaires virtually every week, raising £9 billion over the next seven years for sports, arts, charities, Nat-

ional Heritage projects and the Millennium Commission.

By the time of the first prize draw on November 19, it estimates that about 40 million adults will have seen an average of 13 lottery commercials on television. A similar figure will have seen press advertisements. 19 million will have heard radio promotions and 34 million will have seen posters. The first television commercial, entitled "A Star is Born", is due to be screened tonight on ITV at 10.21pm, during the commercial break in *News At Ten*.

However, a spokeswoman for the Methodist Church said: "Research shows that those most drawn to gambling in this country are poor people lured by the bait of quick rewards. The odds against winning the jackpot are 14 million to one. The beneficiaries, however, will be mostly comfortably-off middle-class citizens whose lives are enriched by National Heritage and the arts."

"What is happening is appallingly dangerous. The lottery will take money from the worse-off and award its benefits to the better-off in a broad sense. It is a tax on the poor." She added that charities, which are expected to benefit



The advertisements show fortune touching the lives of winners. The Methodists condemn "a tax on the poor"

by about £308 million a year, would lose overall because it was estimated that donations to all charities would fall by £400 million a year. She believed that members of the public would be discouraged from giving if they felt lottery

receipts were already going to charities.

The spokeswoman said that the Methodist view on the lottery had been strongly influenced by the 1978 Royal Commission on Gambling, known as the Rothschild Com-

mission. "The huge advertising budget contravenes the recommendation of the royal commission that there should be no advertising for a National Lottery."

Most worrying, she said, were the "instant games",

including scratch games, to be introduced in tens of thousands of shops from the spring. Shoppers would be encouraged "to stay and play again... Instant losers are stimulated to keep trying."

The Rev John Kennedy, of

the Methodist Church's Division of Social Responsibility, said: "Gambling is harmful. In Britain it appeals largely to the worse-off... The National Lottery will expand the gambling market, and thereby increase the harm."

Gamblers Anonymous said: "The public is not being told enough about the pitfalls." It demanded that the lottery carry a government warning. Camelot said that its own research suggested that the Methodists' fears were exaggerated. "It won't be demographically linked in any way. There will be a broad spread."

"All the research shows that it is something everybody plans to get involved with at all social levels. It also shows that people spend more than they can afford when there is an element of skill. The lottery is random. People will see it as just a flutter. They'll spend the odd £1, like those who bet on the Grand National."

A "talking" Jack Russell is expected to become a familiar sight on television in the next few weeks as the star of one of the lottery commercials. The dog will be shown helping its owner to pick his numbers. It will rasp "Seven" as its master racks his brains.

Leading article, and Letters, page 21

Housing policies 'fail Britain'

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSING policies pursued by British governments have failed to make good use of the stock and have damaged the economy, according to a report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation today.

Policy has lacked the continuity of that in most European countries, where the aim has been to overcome shortages by stimulating investment. Private landlords have qualified for less help than elsewhere in Europe. Councils have been unable to raise private sector investment, with demands placed on public funds.

The relatively low cost of house purchase has led to people trading up. The system of mortgage finance, with buyers unprotected from interest-rate fluctuations, allows equity withdrawal at times of boom, with people spending more as the economy is overheating. Negative equity, arrears and repossessions in a recession mean savings are raised when consumption is already low. This "raises questions about Britain's ability to live under a single [European] monetary regime let alone a common currency."

Warning to young on deadly heaters

By ANJANA AHUJA

LANDLORDS are among the targets of a £350,000 campaign to warn people about carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty gas heaters.

The government campaign, launched yesterday, coincides with laws coming into force this week that pin a new legal responsibility on landlords to ensure gas heaters are safe. Faulty gas heaters claim 40

lives each year, with students and young people in rented accommodation often at risk. The campaign will focus on 16 to 24-year-olds and appear in the cinema, national newspapers and on television. A free telephone advice line was also opened yesterday.

The new laws force landlords to have heaters checked yearly by registered experts. Prospective tenants can ask to see a safety record, which the landlord must provide. From January 1996 all new gas heaters will have to include an automatic cut-out button to guard against dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) levels. People are advised to buy CO detectors until then.

Anne Watkinson told how her 19-year-old daughter Claire died in 1991 after being poisoned by a gas heater that had not been checked for 18 years. The landlord responsible was fined £200. Mrs Watkinson started up an action group for bereaved families, which gave the impetus for tighter legislation.

Michael Buerk, presenter of the BBC television series 999, which featured the case of a young couple nearly dying from CO poisoning, said he was moved to support the campaign because it would help to curb "such a tragic waste of young life".

Dr John Henry, who heads the National Poisons Unit in London, said the actual death toll was at least 500 each year. "Wherever you have fuel, you have the possibility of poisoning. People don't realise they are being poisoned, and even doctors don't always recognise the symptoms."



Buerk: "Tragic waste of young life"

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The new laws force land-

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TIMES BOOKS

Doctors refused to treat offender

Hospitals blamed for releasing killer

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A MENTALLY ill man who became a stranger to death with a piece of wood in an underground car park had been discharged from hospital three weeks earlier because medical staff regarded him as unmanageable.

An independent inquiry into the killing, published yesterday, concludes that the professionals involved in the care of Michael Buchanan, who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and a personality disorder, washed their hands of him because he was too difficult to manage.

"There was a tendency by staff today there was nothing more they could do," Christopher Hgmbotham, chairman of the inquiry, said. "He was discharged time and time again into the community. An offence was just waiting to happen."

The case is the latest to expose gaping holes in the provision of hospital and community care for mentally dis-

ordered offenders and has close similarities to that of Christopher Clunis, the paranoid schizophrenic who stabbed to death Jonathan Zito on a north London Underground platform.

Buchanan, 28 at the time of the attack in 1992, had a long criminal record including repeated convictions for drug abuse, threatening behaviour and actual bodily harm. Yet doctors discharged him 13 times from mental hospitals between 1983 and 1992, despite knowing that he failed to take his medication or to keep appointments with social workers once out of hospital.

On September 10, 1992, three weeks after being discharged from a locked ward at Shenley mental hospital, he killed Frederick Graver, 54, a former policeman, in an underground car park after asking him for cigarettes. He had taken crack cocaine the day before and was "believed to be suffering the symptoms of

psychosis", the inquiry panel says. He hit Mr Graver with a piece of wood, knocking him to the ground, and stamped on his face causing 13 severe multiple fractures. Mr Graver died two days later.

Buchanan was convicted of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and psychiatrists recommended that he be held in a special hospital. However, the Special Hospitals Service Authority has refused to accept him because it is reluctant to take patients with personality disorders, a decision the inquiry says is wholly unacceptable.

Buchanan is serving four life sentences at Full Sutton maximum security prison near York and could be eligible for parole in 2000. The inquiry panel, which criticises the "poor attitude of prison medical staff", says he cannot receive the treatment he needs in prison and "his eventual release could represent a clear risk to the community".



The remains of the motorcycle shop in Leeds after Mrs Welham drove into it to avoid a cat on the road

Car brings down shop as cat's luck holds

A DRIVER demolished a shop when she swerved to avoid a cat on the road.

Susan Welham, 44, was buried under tons of rubble after hitting the motorcycle and bicycle shop but escaped with cuts and bruises. Mrs Welham, a researcher for a drugs-testing company, was returning to her home in Horsforth, Leeds, on Wednesday night when a black cat ran in front of her car.

When firemen arrived they could see no sign of the car beneath brick, stone and slate but knew someone was there because of muffled shouts. It took 90 minutes to free her.

The front of the shop on the Skipton road in Horsforth and part of the roof was destroyed, and the first floor had collapsed. A fire officer said: "Mrs Welham kept very calm and was talking to us throughout the operation to free her."

Her son Daniel, 15, said: "She just kept saying how lucky she was. Her left hand and right leg are cut, but otherwise she was not hurt."

Bosses cleared of laundry fire plot

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO directors of a laundry company and their accountant were cleared yesterday of starting a fire that resulted in the death of a firefighter.

The prosecution had claimed that the men wanted to collect an £800,000 insurance payout.

Judge Richard Lowry, QC, directed a jury at the Old Bailey to return not guilty verdicts after defence submissions that there was no evidence to link the men to the blaze.

Matic Radoslav, 43, of Acton, west London, Zoran Miskulin, 38, of North Harrow, northwest London, and the accountant, Ngai Ting, 44, of Wembley, west London, had been charged with manslaughter, arson reckless as to whether life would be endangered and conspiracy to defraud.

The judge said that they had no case to answer. The evidence did not support the Crown's allegations that the

men decided that an insurance swindle was the only way to solve a financial crisis at Access Laundry Services in Cricklewood, northwest London.

The evidence showed that the business did not have money troubles.

"The company had been reorganised with the help of the bank and business was looking up," the judge said. "It is not a picture of the defendants getting so depressed that they felt that the only way out was to start an insurance fire."

He said the fact that the building was insured just before the fire was an oversight by the men's bankers and was not an indication that they were about to swindle their insurance company.

"The first premium had not even been paid, which is the first thing you would do if you were going to defraud an insurance company," the judge said.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Net a bargain with plentiful shellfish

THERE is a wide range of shellfish, including native oysters from 50p each and fresh mussels at about £2.20 for 2kg (Kathryn Knight writes). Also worth buying are South Coast scallops at about 80p each and prawns at £2.50 a lb. Best whitefish buy is cod fillets at £3.00 a lb.

For bonfire parties, baking potatoes are as low as 10p a lb while roasting chestnuts are 90p a lb.

Advised best buys: Asda: bonfire baking potatoes, 99p for 10lb; 1lb cider and sherry Christmas pudding, £1.99; aubergines, 59p a lb.

Budgens: skinless continental frankfurters, 99p for 10; Freshbake traditional apple pies, two for 79p; Black Tower Liebfraumilch, £2.69.

Co-op: Coca-Cola multipack (8 x

330ml), £1.89; cod in parsley sauce, £2.39; prawn salad, 79p for 250g; Harrods: rainbow trout, £1.80 a lb; plaice, £2.60 a lb; buttered Lancashire cheese, £3.95 a lb. Iceland: plain cod fillets, £1.99 for 680g; Irish sausages, £1.29 for 2lb; lamb chops, £2.99 for 2lb 10oz.

Marks and Spencer: stirry sweetcorn, 89p for 300g; frozen haddock cutlets, £1.69; 1 litre freshly squeezed orange juice, £1.99.

Sainsbury: boneless chicken breasts, £3.75 for 1lb 4oz; red dessert apples, 34p a lb; prime beef sirloin, £4.14 a lb.

Somerfield: grade A frozen turkey, 38p a lb; loose satsumas, 27p a lb; 1lb Christmas pudding, 99p.

Waitrose: fresh dressed Cromer crab, £2.49; British sirloin steak, 4.69 a lb; dorelaine, £3.39 a lb.

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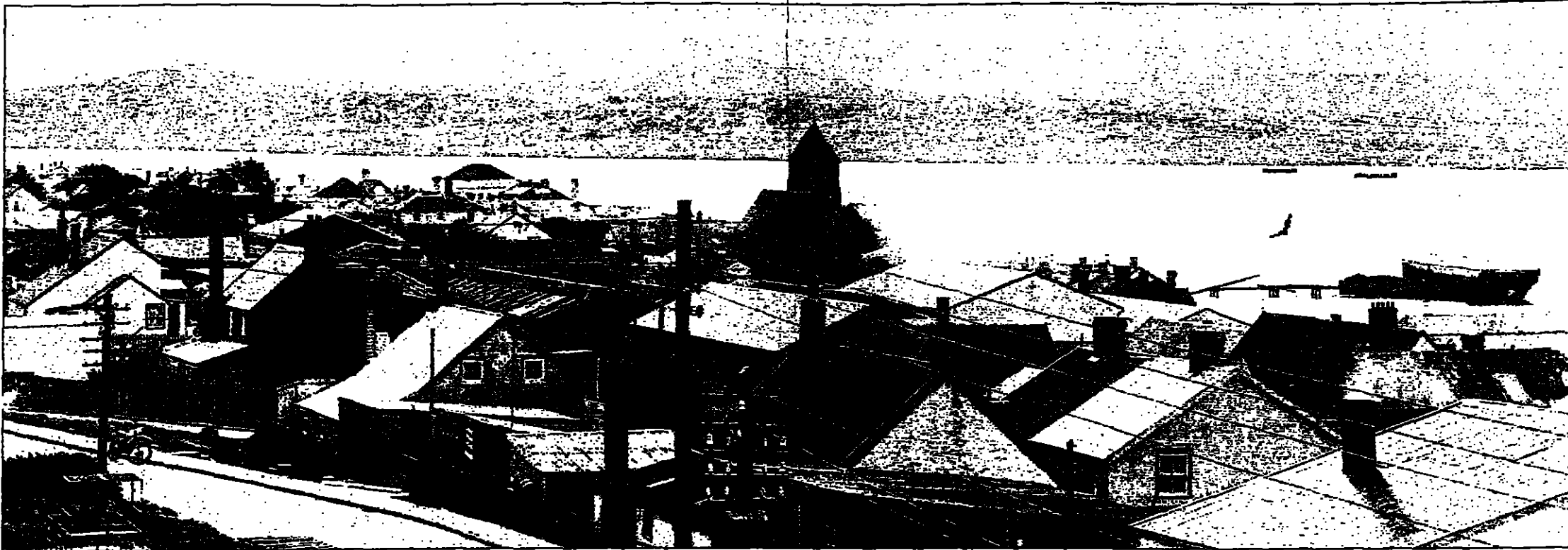
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Islands keep faith with Britain despite Menem offer to buy sovereignty



Most residents of the Falkland Islands, including Port Stanley, the capital, still believe their security lies with London and consider Argentines to be dishonest and aggressive, according to a MORI poll

Falklanders retain deep hostility to Argentina

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FALKLANDS residents remain deeply suspicious about Argentina 12 years after the war over the islands, according to the results of a wide-ranging MORI opinion poll.

More than 200 islanders were questioned, nearly 10 per cent of the population. Significantly, the survey was carried out in early October, well before President Menem of Argentina provoked uproar in the Falklands this week by offering to pay the islanders for agreeing to some form of Argentine sovereignty.

The islanders were feverishly awaiting the results of the survey today, wrongly believing it will reveal whether they are prepared to accept money in exchange for sovereignty and if so, how much.

The survey was commissioned by a group of Argentine businessmen who asked for the results of some of the questions to be held back from publication. Falkland islanders believe that the results will be closely monitored in Buenos Aires, where President Menem faces elections next March.

The survey indicates that the islanders put their trust in Britain, rarely travel, and

many think Argentines are dishonest and aggressive.

More than three-quarters of those questioned by MORI said that they did not think the Buenos Aires regime would keep its word in any compromise over sovereignty of the islands, while 57 per cent said that Britain should not even discuss the issue with Argentina.

The vast majority of islanders are so wary of Argentina that they oppose any resumption of air links, trade or a lifting of travel restrictions, the survey indicates.

When asked what they would want to see in return for some kind of compromise with Argentina over sovereignty, nearly half — 47 per cent — said they would not agree to a compromise under any circumstances, although 39 per cent said they wanted to see a permanent British military base on the islands. Others wanted English to remain the official language, the British justice system to remain, and to keep control of natural resources.

Nearly two-thirds of those questioned, 65 per cent, felt favourable towards Britain, with only 3 per cent unfavour-



Despite opportunities, few islanders travel

able — almost the reverse of their attitude to Argentina, which was 7 per cent favourable and 50 per cent unfavourable.

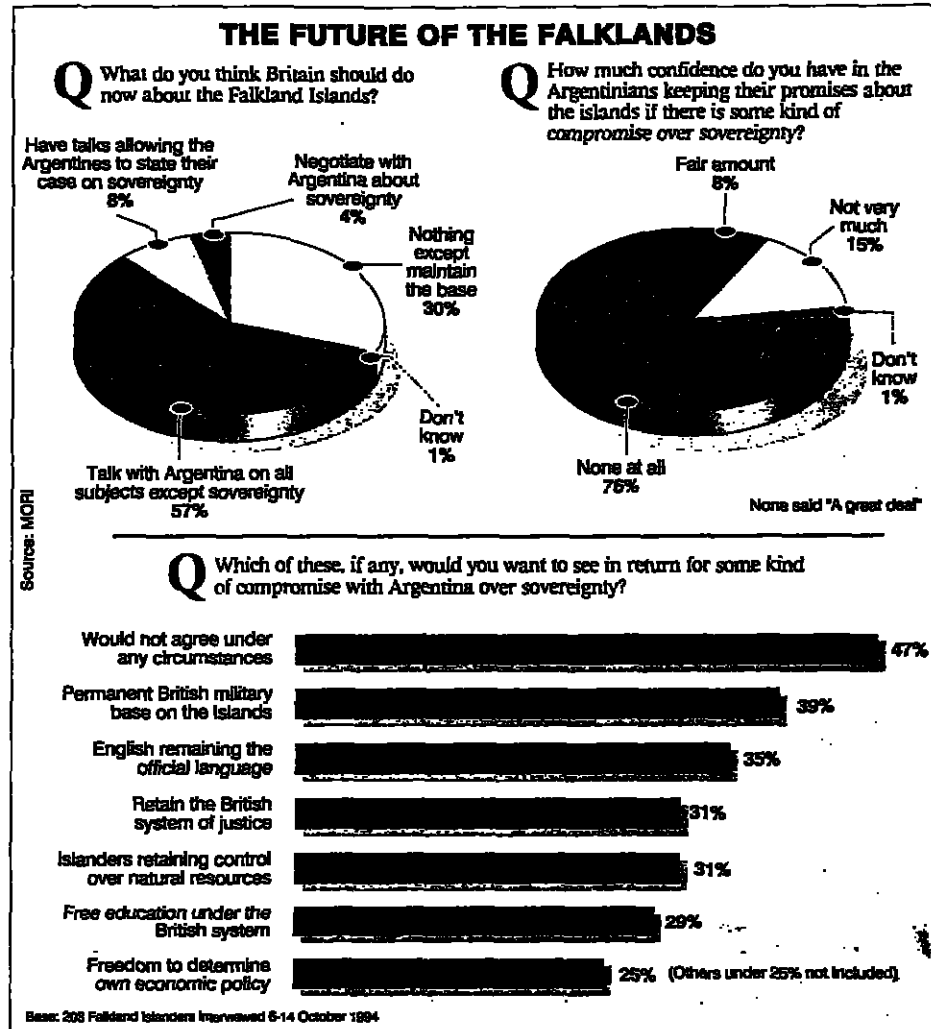
Asked what Britain should do now about the Falkland Islands, 57 per cent wanted talks with Argentina on all subjects except sovereignty, 30 per cent said nothing should be done apart from maintain-

ing the military base, and only 4 per cent advocated negotiating with Argentina on sovereignty. An overwhelming number, 76 per cent, said they had no confidence at all in the Argentines keeping their promises over the islands.

The poll indicated that most islanders have no idea how much it costs Britain to support and defend the Falklands. Estimates ranged from up to £10,000 per person a year to more than £500,000. In fact, it costs around £30,000 per head.

The Government yesterday insisted that sovereignty was not up for discussion and that the subject of the Argentine "bribe" offered to the islanders would not be raised. "Sovereignty is not for sale. The Government sees no future at all in the Argentine offer which is reported to have been made," a spokesman said.

Eduardo Menem, the president of the Argentine Senate, yesterday discounted reports that his brother, President Menem, was ready to offer the 2,200 islanders cash to accept Argentine sovereignty. "The [islands] are part of Argentine territory, consequently compensation should not be paid,"



he said. Dr Menem said that Argentina's standing offer was that islanders could remain while retaining their British nationality.

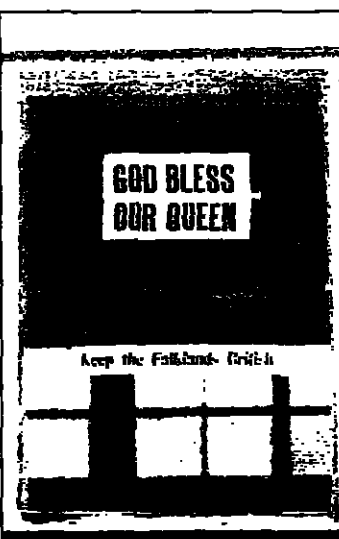
MORI interviewed 203 permanent residents (excluding

short-term contract workers and British military personnel) on October 6-14. Interviews were conducted face-to-face, in homes in Port Stanley (152), and by telephone with residents in camp (51). Quotas

were set by age, sex, work status and by location (Port Stanley/East Falkland/West Falkland/smaller islands) based on census data. The margin of error was plus or minus 7 per cent.

Bewilderment over the 'missing question' in opinion poll

By NICK NUTTALL IN PORT STANLEY AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE



A poster expressing the view of the majority of islanders

THERE was astonishment in the Falkland Islands last night after it emerged that a controversial question about cash for sovereignty had been excluded from the results of a poll of islanders published today.

The issue of selling sovereignty has been a subject of debate in the Falkland Islands after the recent offer by President Menem of Argentina of \$1.5 million (£925,000) to islanders prepared to accept Argentine sovereignty.

The poll was commissioned by a group of Argentine businessmen, who agreed to release the results to *The Times*, but asked that the results of some questions be held back for their own use.

John Cheek, a local businessman and councillor, said it was widely believed that about 10 per cent of people interviewed had been willing to sell their sovereignty, provided

more than £1 million was offered. Other sources in the Falkland Islands said that a lot more than half of those polled were under no circumstances prepared to surrender sovereignty.

Annie Chater, who owns a shop in Port Stanley, said it was very suspicious that the question of cash for sovereignty, known in local shorthand as "Menem's bribe", was not included in the MORI survey as released to *The Times*. "It is a critical question," she said.

It had been widely but mistakenly believed in the Falklands that the poll had been paid for by either the Argentine government or Secret Service. It has been confirmed by a cross-section of those polled that the question of sovereignty for cash was asked by the MORI pollsters.

Islanders said they were asked whether they would accept payment in return for conceding sovereignty. They were then asked what sum would be acceptable in the light of the fact that a cash offer of \$1.5

million was on the table from the Argentine President.

Many people refused to answer that question. But, of those that did, some claimed they would need more than £1 million to transfer their allegiance. Professor Robert Worcester, chairman of MORI, said

"We found the islanders to be very welcoming and keen to express their opinions and their concerns."

yesterday. "The poll was commissioned by a group of Argentine businessmen who agreed the material could be published in *The Times* and they have reserved material from several questions for their private use. This is in accordance with the code of practice of the

Market Research Society of Great Britain which stipulates that "all confidential information and material relating to a client, including the fact of his/her having considered or commissioned a survey, must be held in strict confidence unless the information can be shown to be in the public domain or the client has approved any announcement."

"I can say that the information that has been published is not inconsistent with data that has not been published."

Ben Page, Associate Director of MORI, who led the team which conducted the survey, said yesterday: "We found the islanders to be keen to express their opinions. There are still considerable feelings of hostility towards Argentina, which some islanders expressed very forcefully."

David Tatham, the Falkland Islands Governor, said the poll was a ploy that had backfired. "I think they thought they would get a much better reaction to spread dissen-

sion," Mr Tatham said he had been assured that all questions and the results would be published in full.

Meanwhile, John Barton, director of the Falklands Fishery Department, said yesterday that Argentine-registered fishing boats will be boarded and their captains fined heavily if they continued to operate in sensitive areas.

In the past 12 days, two Argentine-registered boats had been caught in the islands' conservation zone and a third spotted off South Georgia. Earlier this year fisheries protection staff caught a Chilean and a Russian vessel poaching toothfish. The boats were boarded and taken to Port Stanley and the captains of each fined more than £70,000.

Mr Barton said: "Due to political sensitivities the Argentine boats are being escorted out of the zone." However, fisheries protection staff were losing patience with the poachers. "If they do repeat the action, then sooner or later they will have to end up in court," he said.

Serbs lose Kupres after 30 months

Sarajevo: The Bosnian Serb Army said yesterday that the Serb-held central Bosnian town of Kupres, under their control for the past 30 months, had fallen after a heavy combined attack by Muslim and Croat forces.

It is the first time since the early days of the 3-month war in Bosnia that Serb forces, which have an overwhelming superiority in tanks and artillery, had lost a major town.

UN officers said Bosnian Muslim and Croat forces had launched heavy shelling and infantry assaults on Kupres from three directions in a rare display of battlefield co-operation. (Reuters)

Pope attacks 'holy' wars

Rome: In an apparent reference to Islamic fundamentalism, the Pope told a peace conference at the Vatican yesterday that it was a "blatant contradiction" to wage war in the name of religion.

"No one can consider himself faithful to the great and merciful God who, in the name of the same God, dares to kill his brother," he told an assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, an international organisation working at grassroots level to encourage inter-religious dialogue and promote peace. "Religion and peace go together: to wage war in the name of religion is a blatant contradiction," he said. (Reuters)

Husband killed wife

Wellington: The parents and sister of an English-born woman killed in New Zealand 12 years ago went to an Auckland court room yesterday when the woman's husband, Warwick Bennett, 35, a former air force sergeant, was found guilty of murdering her in April 1982 and later having her body in a bag.

Yvonne Bennett's parents, Patricia and Alan Landis, of Dorset, and her sister, Elaine Lennard, of Somerset, attended the trial.

Cambodia aid plea

London: Gareth Evans, the Australian Foreign Minister, told a press conference in Sydney yesterday that his national military aid to the Cambodian government to fight the Khmer Rouge should be increased or the region could face a "dangerous erosion of security". Our Foreign Staff writes.

Mr Evans was speaking after the discovery of the bodies of three Western hostages in Cambodia this week.

UN troops recruit mules

Sarajevo: British UN troops in Gorade are considering trading some of their armoured vehicles and lorries for mules in supplying observation posts if the Bosnian Serbs prolong their harassment of fuel convoys to the enclave (Joel Brand writes).

The animals would be used to carry supplies to UN posts in Gorade, Sarajevo, Srebrenica and Zepa.

Isin woos reformist chiefs after the debacle



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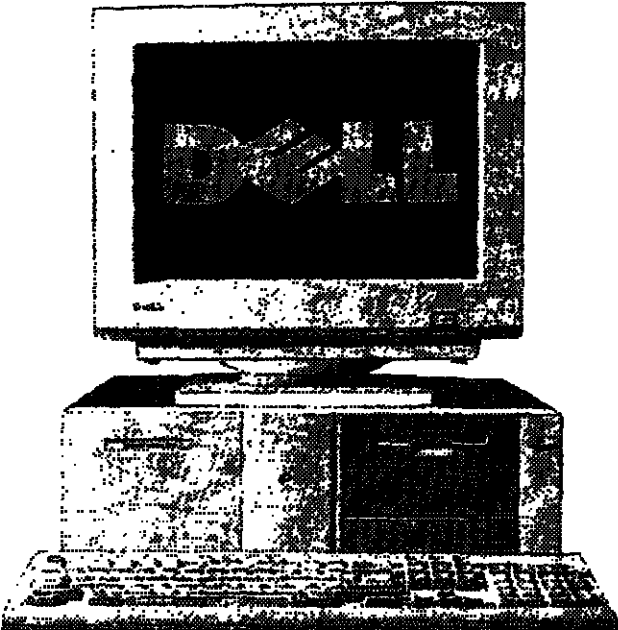
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Yeltsin woos reformist chiefs after vote debacle

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday summoned leading liberal politicians for talks as Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, emphasised the need for closer relations between the government and a hostile parliament.

Mr Yeltsin called in Vladimir Shumeiko, the chairman of the upper house of parliament, Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, and Gavril Popov, his predecessor, Sergei Shakhrai, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Yegor Gaidar, the radical reformist and leader of the Russia's Choice party.

The President's need to win back support from these former followers was graphically illustrated last week when 194 deputies of the Duma, the lower house of parliament, voted against the government for a no-confidence motion which failed by only 32 votes to get the absolute majority necessary for victory.

Many liberals and centrist deputies abstained, who in the past would have opposed the motion. Since the dismissal of Mr Gaidar at the start of this year, they have been angered by the progressive exclusion of reformist representatives from Mr Chernomyrdin's Cabinet.

They also see Mr Yeltsin's own immensely powerful personal secretariat as increasingly dominated by authoritarian former communists, the so-called "Sverdlovsk mafia" that formed around him when he was party boss of the region more than ten years ago. Within the secretariat, the influence of liberals such as Sergei Filatov, chief of staff, has been on the wane.

Many ordinary liberal voters, who in past years turned out to demonstrate for Mr Yeltsin during a succession of crises, have become disillusioned by the growth of official corruption and the predominance of the old communist

bureaucrats. Few of them would risk their lives to help Mr Yeltsin today.

While Mr Gaidar opposes Mr Chernomyrdin, but publicly backs the President, the other leading liberal, Boris Fyodorov, the former Finance Minister, has gone into outright opposition to Mr Yeltsin. Other leading liberals, such as Mr Shumeiko and Mr Luzhkov, are beginning to jockey discreetly for position to succeed Mr Yeltsin.

While the President has been consulting the liberals, Mr Chernomyrdin has been doing the opposite, angering them further by offering ministerial posts to the moderate communist and nationalist opposition. It is not clear whether the President and the Prime Minister are working on separate parts of an agreed strategy, or whether they are manoeuvring against each other.

It is possible that Mr Yeltsin and Mr Chernomyrdin, wily tacticians that they are, may be able to damp down some of the parliamentary hostility by simultaneously offering a few ministerial posts to the liberals and a few to the conservatives, while in policy terms continuing their present line of muddling along.

□ Navy protest: The Russian navy issued a protest after claiming to discover an American submarine within Russian territorial waters, close to one of its bases.

Admiral Oleg Yerofeev, the commander of Russia's Northern Fleet, said that the vessel left only after repeated warnings.

Admiral Yerofeev said that the vessel was detected within five miles of the entrance to Kola Bay in the Russian Arctic, near the Murmansk naval base. The American Embassy in Moscow refused to comment.

Iliescu promises to cut through adoption red tape

BY ANNE McELVOY

President Iliescu of Romania is to encourage a more efficient adoption process in his country, he said yesterday, so that foreigners wishing to offer homes to unwanted children can do so without breaking the law.

Mr Iliescu, who concludes his first visit to Britain today, said that British civil servants were advising Romanian officials on how to implement effective administration of legal adoption in an attempt to stamp out the illegal trade in babies. "There has been a period of uncertainty that has led to people doing business with babies," Mr Iliescu said in an interview. "But the legislation is now in place to prevent it."

Although Bucharest recently signed the Helsinki agreement regulating international adoption, the process has been hindered by the inexperience of local officials. President Iliescu said he would consider "any necessary steps" to improve the cumbersome procedures. He added that the 28-month jail term imposed on Adrian and Bernadette Mooney, the British couple convicted of trying to smuggle out a baby girl, had been "a rather strict application of the law" and he had been moved by the "positive approach" of the couple to re-examine their case.

Mr Iliescu began his visit to

London by announcing a pardon for the couple. He clearly hopes that this gesture will improve Romania's reputation as a straggler in East Europe's democratic renewal.

Desperate to be accepted in the West — Mr Iliescu has so far been received only in France — the London visit has been accorded in-depth coverage by the Romanian media, which have widely suggested that this is a full state visit rather than its more cautious real status as a "working visit", taking in short meetings with John Major and Michael Heseltine.

Despite his fluent English and eager smile, the whiff of the *ancien regime* clings to Mr Iliescu, as he remains loyal to a plethora of senior officials and ministers who were in power under Nicolae Ceausescu, the late dictator.

Mr Iliescu's prepared speeches, like the one he delivered last night to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, emphasise Romania's European traditions, the reforms in its economy and its embracing of Nato's Partnership for Peace treaty.

But he finds it difficult to suppress the vestiges of dictatorial rhetoric under pressure. Responding to criticism from the Helsinki Watch human rights organisation that the government continues to control Channel One television,



President Iliescu, visiting Britain in his search for Western acceptance, is still handicapped by his Communist past

the main source of information for most Romanians, Mr Iliescu said: "The feeling of the people contradicts this." Asked if he could guarantee that there would be no repetition of the violence of two years ago, when miners attacked liberal demonstrators in Bucharest, an angry Mr Iliescu, shaking his finger in the air, said: "You all think Iliescu is a second Ceausescu. I did not approve the miners' actions. It could happen again if the economic and social conditions occurred."

The outburst reflects his insecurity as he tries to steer the country towards a market economy and basic democratic values, while struggling to leap over the shadow of his own past as a lifelong member of the Communist Party.

Romania is now trying to accelerate economic reforms. But concerns remain over the difficulties placed in the way of the opposition and over

worsening relations with the Hungarian minority.

He admitted: "This is still a transitional period in Romania and democracy could be strengthened further. We are all still growing."

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Letters, page 21

Trial of ill Stasi chief scrapped

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE trial of the ailing former head of the Stasi secret police, Erich Mielke, was abandoned yesterday because of his inability to understand the proceedings. It was the last big trial against former Communist officials of East Germany.

Three other members of the East German Defence Council have been sentenced to jail terms of between 4½ and 7½ years which they are serving at home in a form of house arrest. The formal charges were of ordering the killing of a token number of East Germans who tried to escape.

Mielke, 86, will continue to serve a six-year jail term imposed for the murder of a Berlin policeman in 1931. Hans Modrow, former East German Prime Minister, is to stand trial again for falsifying election results after the supreme court decided his 20,000 marks (£8,300) fine was too lenient.



Gaidar: his dismissal angered liberals



Popov: called in for strategy meeting

Mitterrand pictured on trip with his mistress's daughter

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN PARIS

THANKS to the year's hottest book, *Mitterrand and the 40 Thieves*, the current best-seller by Jean Montaldo, most of France already knows that President Mitterrand maintains a secret second household. The taboo that shields politicians' private lives crumbled further yesterday when *Paris Match* published photographs of Mitterrand, the President's 20-year-old daughter by his longstanding mistress.

The pictures would have been unthinkable until the scandals that have afflicted Mitterrand, 78, in the past couple of years, and their appearance still prompted indignation from opposition figures. "I'm sad about this," said Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the previous President. Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist Interior Minister, said: "I deplore this." The French Press Federation gave a warning of the dangers of "falling in the gutter inhabited by certain Anglo-Saxon newspapers".

Match splashed the telephone pictures of "La Fille de Mitterrand" on its cover and inside pages to coincide with a book by Philippe Alexandre, the latest in a series to expose aspects of Mitterrand's private life. Gushing captions spoke of "the tender gesture of a father" and described how Mitterrand had lately dropped all discretion and was often seen in public with Mazarine, the daughter of a museum curator who, although not named in the *Match* article, has been named elsewhere as Anne Pinget.

He has taken his daughter on an official trip to South Africa and invited her to state dinners at the Elysée Palace.



The magazine cover showing President Mitterrand leaving a restaurant with his illegitimate daughter

M Mitterrand has long led quite a separate private existence from Danielle, his wife, with whom he has had two grown-up sons. It was widely thought in critical circles yesterday that the President must have approved publication of the pictures, given the potential for trouble.

The existence of the mistress with whom Mitterrand became involved in the early 1970s and the daughter from their union has been common knowledge for years. However,

er, the mainstream media had until recently avoided any reference.

Match justified its decision to publish the pictures, which technically breach France's strict privacy law, by saying the President himself had clearly decided to go public. Patrick Mahé, the editor, said there was no comparison with the methods of the British press. "This is the opposite of a scandalous story. It is the tale of the tenderness between a father and his natural child."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Briton tells of ordeal on bus in Egypt flash flood

By Christopher Walker and Emma Wilkins

A WOMAN was drowned and a British mother and daughter had a narrow escape when flash floods swept them away from a stranded Egyptian tourist bus towards the Red Sea.

"It was traumatic. There had been no warning of weather like that and only minutes before it had been hot sunshine," Sarah Fitzgerald, 18, from Northwood, Middlesex, said. She and her parents were among 45 Britons on the bus that had become bogged down in mud.

"They were the most frightening moments of my life," she said that she was saved because an Egyptian soldier had helped her to cling to a tree. Miss Fitzgerald had also initially believed that her mother had died. "I saw my mother being swept past helplessly into the sea. I had no idea she had survived, as people told me she was dead", she added.

In an emotional interview with *The Times*, Miss Fitzgerald, an A-level student who credited her survival to fitness at aerobics classes, said the flood waters at Wadi Tabu, south of the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat, ripped the clothes off her back as the

torrent swept her over jagged rocks. Many of the other survivors, too, suffered cuts and lacerations before being rescued by soldiers from Egypt and the international force now based in Sinai.

Miss Fitzgerald and her parents Teresa, 50, and Noel, had been travelling with Jules Verne Tours from the ancient city of Petra in Jordan, and had just crossed the Israeli border into Egypt on Wednesday afternoon when the bus became stuck in swirling mud.

"The driver left and for half an hour we all waited in the coach as the flood waters climbed up the sides. Eventually they began pouring through the doors and we had to break the windows and jump... otherwise we would have all been drowned inside. There was nobody to tell us what to do, but miraculously there was no real panic," said Miss Fitzgerald. Soon after the tourists managed to leave the bus and climb on to higher ground, they were washed away by torrents rushing down from the mountains that tower over Sinai and towards the Red Sea.

Miss Fitzgerald and her mother were eventually rescued by a speedboat, which



Teresa Fitzgerald, a British tourist, visiting her daughter Sarah in hospital in Eilat after their bus was trapped near the Red Sea by a flash flood

brought them to Israel. Some of the other Britons were taken to a medical centre on the Egyptian side of the border.

The British woman who died has been identified as Margaret Mobbs, 56, of Woodchurch, Kent. She had been travelling with her husband, Tony.

Yesterday the freak storms were continuing in the region. Radio Israel reported that nine Israeli buses, carrying

hundreds of passengers, had also been trapped for more than 18 hours on a small stretch of desert road 70 miles north of Eilat, between two impassable floods.

Miss Fitzgerald, who was recovering yesterday from a broken ankle at an Eilat hospital, said: "I never want to come to this part of the world again or to go on any sort of adventure holiday." However, she praised the efforts made

by the Egyptians to rescue them. "If the soldier had not helped me hold on to the tree, I would have been swept away too."

In Woodchurch yesterday, prayers were said for Mrs Mobbs at her parish church. Mrs Mobbs, who worked for her local branch of Age Concern, was a keen bridge player and shared a passion for gardening with her husband. The Rev Simon Franklin

said the villagers had heard about the tragedy over the radio. "For a small village like ours, it all seems so far away. It was a freak accident and people who knew her can still hardly believe it's true."

For Miss Fitzgerald, the "greatest relief was discovering that my mother was still alive when only minutes before I had been convinced that she was dead". She said that

her mother had swallowed too much seawater, "but apart from that she was not harmed".

A representative for a British travel firm in Eilat, handling the evacuation of the survivors to Britain, said that it had successfully negotiated their passages across the border from Egypt. "Not one of them wanted to go on with their tour, for very understandable reasons," he said.

Mourners denounce Arafat at militant's funeral

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

MOURNERS at the funeral of a militant Muslim activist killed by a car bomb heaped abuse yesterday on Yasser Arafat, while an Israeli spokesman praised the bombing and said it would be appropriate for other fundamentalist leaders to be nervous.

Mr Arafat, seeking to join a Gaza City memorial service for the activist, Hani Abed, 30, was met with cries of "traitor" and a chorus of boos, witnesses said. "This is your peace, Arafat — it is all liquidations and assassinations," several of the mourners shouted.

Thousands of people turned out for the funeral of Abed, a leader of the Islamic Jihad organisation and journalist, who was killed as he got into his car in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis.

Islamic Jihad leaders issued a warning that revenge would soon be forthcoming. "Yitzhak Rabin [the Israeli Prime Minister] will hear the real response from the sons of Islam, the sons of Islamic Jihad. He should prepare the coffins and the sorrow of the Israeli people to receive their victims," Shaikh Abdallah al-Shami said as he stood near Abed's body, along with two guerrillas who raised their rifles.

Mr Arafat left the funeral in haste. Nabih Abu Rodana, his spokesman, later played down the incident, saying: "This tension is a normal thing."

The harsh reception Mr Arafat received appeared to reflect a widespread perception among hardliners that he is advancing Israel's interests at their expense. Muslim hardliners as well as Fehil Abu Midan, the Palestinian Authority's Justice Minister, blamed Israel for the bombing, the first such attack in the Strip, according to Halidar Abdel-Shafi, a veteran nationalist and former chief negotiator with Israel.

Uri Dromi, an Israeli spokesman, termed Abed a terrorist. "I do not know who did it, but whoever it was saved the lives of a lot of innocent people."

Review of fuel depot sites to follow disaster

FROM REUTERS IN DURUNKA, EGYPT

RESCUE workers were yesterday still recovering incinerated bodies from houses in the southern Egyptian town of Durunka, pushing towards 300 the toll from Wednesday's flash floods and an explosion at a fuel depot.

Atef Sedki, the Prime Minister, said after touring the devastated town that the government would review the siting of fuel depots. But he said, the disaster was an act of God, adding: "As such, we have to accept it."

Security sources said yesterday that the known death toll from the fire and the floods in other parts of the south had reached more than 460 with the

discovery of about 30 bodies, most of them charred beyond recognition, in the town. 200 miles from Cairo. Residents said they thought hundreds more people had been killed on Wednesday when floodwater capped by blazing fuel poured through about 200 houses "like napalm".

One said: "This is a residential area. There were 2,000 people here and only 300 have come out." Ali Muhammad, another resident, said: "Thousands of people lived here and whole families have been wiped out. It's a disaster."

The Interior Ministry originally said that it estimated the death toll at 265. Hospitals in the area say, however, that they have already taken in far more than that. Many bodies are lying

in mortuaries because no relatives are alive to identify them. Other bodies are too charred to be identified.

Rashwan Muhammad said he had lost all his extended family of 34 because he was out visiting friends when the fuel depot caught fire in a thunderstorm just after dawn on Wednesday. Stunned and inconsolable, he sat against a wall and watched workers pick out six bodies. Five were blackened, the sixth white and bloated after hours immersed in water.

Ahmed Abdelmohsen, a local businessman, told the Prime Minister that in charge of the fuel depot had been seriously negligent in failing to take the usual precautions. One source said the depot did not even have

portable fire extinguishers. Mr Sedki, who was accompanied by five ministers, ordered the depot to be closed.

Some residents have criticised the authorities for reacting too slowly to the disaster. Fire engines did not arrive for hours, they said. Ali Muhammad said: "The rescue workers have not saved anyone. They just came to collect the bodies."

Officials now believe that floodwater built up behind an embankment carrying a railway line to the depot. When 10 ft of water accumulated, the embankment collapsed and eight tanker wagons full of fuel overturned. The fuel caught fire, possibly from a bolt of lightning, and the floodwater swept the blazing fuel into the village.

Saharan refugee camp destroyed by storms

By Michael Binyon

THE entire refugee camp in Algeria housing 55,000 people who have fled from the fighting in Western Sahara has been destroyed by one of the worst storms in the desert on record, a spokesman for the Polisario Liberation Front guerrillas said yesterday.

"Everything we have built in the past 20 years has been ruined: schools, hospitals and buildings have been destroyed, food and clothes have been waterlogged," said

Lamine Bali, the rebels' spokesman in London.

The camp, in a normally arid part of southwest Algeria, was hit by storms on October 9 and last week. Some 3.5ins of rain fell in the second storm, accompanied by high winds, causing floods, uprooting tents and blowing many far from the settlement.

Mr Bali appealed for blankets, clothes and shelter to be donated for the refugees.

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US voters subjected to barrage of dirt in no-quarter campaigns for the Senate

Issues obscured as North and rival keep flinging mud

FROM IAN BRODIE IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

ATTEMPTED character assassination has eclipsed the issues in Oliver North's battle to win election to the United States Senate in Virginia.

Each day brings new mudslinging by the Republican Mr North and Charles Robb, the incumbent Democrat. Outsiders join in, too. Even Nancy Reagan, the former First Lady, accused Mr North of lying to her husband about the Iran-Contra scandal.

Voters are appalled by the nastiness and an unceasing barrage of negative commercials. One woman proposed to hold her nose on polling day next Tuesday and vote for the candidate she least disliked.

Mr Robb has rehired Iran-Contra in which Mr North lied to Congress, and denounced him as a "document-shredding, Constitution-trashing, commander-in-chief-bashing, ayatollah-loving, arms-dealing, drug-condoning, Noriega-coddling, Swiss-banking, law-breaking, letter-faking, self-serving

MID-TERM ELECTIONS

snake-oil salesman". Worse, said Mr Robb, Virginia had gone from producing George Washington, who could not tell a lie, to a man who cannot tell the truth.

Mr North, in turn, accused Mr Robb of fear-mongering and fomenting bigotry while spreading a stain of dishonour over Virginia to save his own "worn-out political hide" — a claim prompted by Democrat calls to blacks that link Mr North to David Duke, former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard.

A North commercial asks: "Why can't Chuck Robb tell the truth about cocaine parties where he said he never saw drugs?" Mr Robb's eyes are shown blinking in slow motion, giving him a drugged appearance. Mr Robb admits

partying some years ago, but denies a link to drugs.

The North commercial resurrects Mr Robb's nude massage by a beauty queen. While a *Playboy* headline proclaims "The woman Senator Robb couldn't resist", a sarcastic voice intones: "Robb says it was only a massage."

Mr Robb concedes behaving inappropriately for a married man, but his wife Lynda, daughter of President Lyndon Johnson, shows forgiveness by often publicly kissing him.

A new poll shows Mr Robb pulling slightly ahead. That may not be enough. "Ollie's Army" (Mr North's Christian conservatives) promise a huge turnout. If Mr North fails, after spending \$17 million (£10 million), he can blame the dissension he has sown.

Some Republicans have withheld support and one is running against him as an independent. But presidential hopefuls have campaigned for him, including Dick Cheney, James Baker, Jack Kemp, Dan Quayle and Senators Robert Dole and Phil Gramm.

Mrs Reagan's allegation of lying was disputed by John Poindexter, President Ronald Reagan's National Security Adviser, who was Mr North's supervisor during the Iran-Contra affair and also lied to Congress. He told a North fund-raising dinner that "Ollie" did what he was told. Mr Poindexter's wife, Linda, an ordained minister, offered a prayer. "God save us from discord, violence and confusion," she said. But the character assassination commercials still played on.



North: a "self-serving snake-oil salesman"



Robb: concedes beauty queen massaged him



Fawn Hall, once a media celebrity and lecturer on secretarial skills, is being treated for cocaine addiction

Marine hero deserts loyal shredder of Iran-Contra documents

FROM TOM RHODES IN LOS ANGELES

ONE question likely to bring a coy response from Oliver North, as he thunders towards a possible Virginia seat in the Senate, is whether he has had contact with Fawn Hall: his secretary and shredder-in-chief during the Iran-Contra scandal whose loyalty knew no bounds.

While it is almost impossible to view a television screen without a glimpse of the former Marine

colonel in full flight, the once glamorous Miss Hall has vanished from the spotlight and is undergoing treatment for cocaine addiction. Few now recognise the blonde-haired star of the Iran-Contra affair who works in a bookshop as part of her therapy in Florida. She is broke and her marriage to Danny Sugerman, the rock author, is all but over. The private wedding ceremony in Los Angeles last year had been something of a reunion for the cast of Irangate — except, of course, for Mr

North who had been advised he should have no contact with people from "that time".

Miss Hall, now 35, was Mr North's secretary at the National Security Council office. When the Iran-Contra scandal broke, over the government scheme to sell arms secretly to Iran and use the money to fund right-wing guerrillas in Nicaragua, her testimony during televised congressional hearings made Fawn Hall an overnight celebrity in 1987. Despite attempts by prosecu-

tor lawyers to make her incriminate Mr North, she stood at his side and is even believed to have smuggled secret documents from the office in her underwear and boots. She epitomised every American's perfect assistant and was later to be found on the lecture circuit espousing the importance of secretarial skills.

A book contract was sealed. Farrah Fawcett was to play the leading role in a film of her life, and *Playboy* offered her £100,000 for a picture spread. In Los Angeles she

became a celebrity. But an affair with Rob Lowe, the brat pack actor, proved disastrous. In 1990 it was reported that she had been thrown out of a University of Southern California journalism class after failing to pay the tuition fees.

Michael Ledeen, a consultant at the National Security Council under the Reagan Administration, said earlier this year: "Still to this day he has never talked to Fawn. She did everything for him and was most gratuitously slandered by the press."

She kept waiting for him to call. "Can I help you out? How are you doing?" Loyalty means not just loyalty up, but loyalty down. He did not show it to her.

Mr North, asked last week whether he had visited or spoken to his former secretary, merely uttered "No". Miss Hall is no longer of use to the aspirant politician and the cry of *semper fidelis* (always faithful), with which he ends so many speeches these days, must offer an empty echo in her room at the clinic.

Republican edges ahead in Californian poll

BY TOM RHODES

MICHAEL Huffington, the man everyone assumed was out of the California Senate race after admitting he had employed an illegal immigrant as a nanny, appears still to have a chance of victory after one statewide poll showed him ahead of his opponent, the incumbent Democratic senator, Dianne Feinstein, for the first time.

Even as 10,000 students took to the streets of Los Angeles to protest against Proposition 187, an initiative cracking down on illegal immigration endorsed by Mr

Huffington, a poll for KCBS-TV suggested the Republican nominee had the support of 42 per cent of the electorate in the Golden State, two percentage points clear of Ms Feinstein. Other recent surveys have shown him between two and six points behind.

At the demonstration, where city school buses had been used to transport younger agitators, a high school pupil, clearly too young to vote, said: "People like Mr Huffington don't like Latinos. I know why — because we are better than he is and we work

harder." The march came only a week after Mr Huffington and his wife, Arianna Sassinopoulos, the Greek socialite and former president of the Cambridge Union, conceded that they had for five years employed an undocumented worker as their nanny.

In the meantime, the \$27 million (£17 million) Huffington electoral juggernaut, the most expensive Senate bid in American political history, has accused Ms Feinstein of forgery, bribery, and of committing the same federal crime by employing two illegal im-

migrants called Marta and Rita when she was Mayor of San Francisco. "He is committing distortions, outright lies about me, my family and my record," she said on the eve of a visit by President Clinton.

That Mr Huffington can draw neck and neck against such a veteran campaigner, after being 30 points down and in spite of everything, says much about the biggest and most politically powerful state in the Union, where television and the silver screen are perhaps more potent than political reality.



Huffington: rhetoric outweighs substance

Day turns into night over Rio

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE view from Sugar Loaf — the mountain which rises 4,264ft above Rio de Janeiro — was more spectacular than usual yesterday when day suddenly turned into night, a few hours after sunrise. The parakeets inhabiting its tropical vegetation fluttered in confusion, stopped singing and returned to their nests.

Hundreds of people, wearing recommended welding masks with protective glass, gathered on the hills of Rio to watch the last solar eclipse

in the Southern hemisphere this century. The phenomenon, with the Sun, Moon and Earth aligned, is expected to be seen next in South America in August 2046.

While 80 per cent of the sun was covered in Rio, areas 300 miles south of the city experienced a total eclipse with complete darkness for several hours.

"Armadillos scurried into their burrows and even flowers showed signs of being upset at the change," said Victor D'Avila, of Brazil's

National Observatory. Hundreds of astronomers from around the world set up giant telescopes and radiation centres in southern Brazil, northern Chile and the Andean highlands of southern Peru and Bolivia, where the best view of the eclipse was reported.

The event has caused a diplomatic rift between Bolivia and Peru, which accused each other of printing false astronomy charts and maps to attract more visitors to their observation points.

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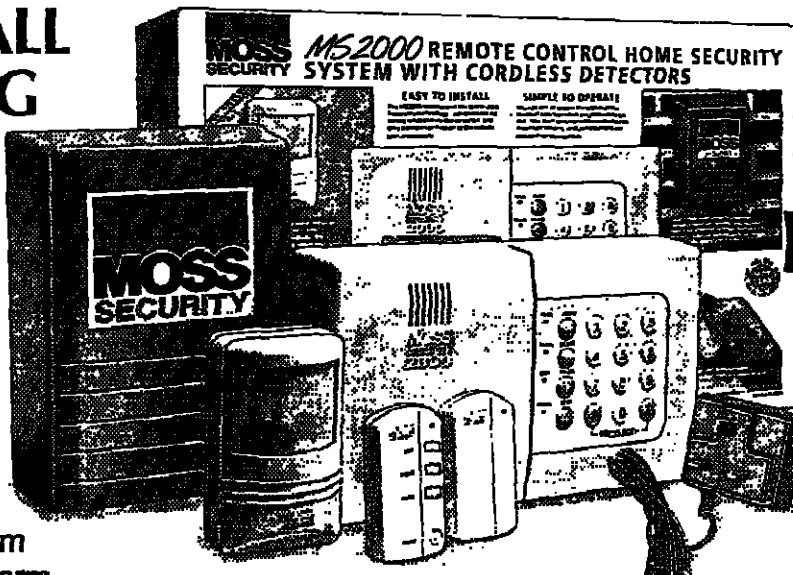
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Once they were part of a sub-group labelled as certain failures. Now, by any standards, Afro-Caribbean women are clear successes

The passenger waiting for the Clapham Omnibus may well conclude, as he surveys the queue full of businesslike black women on their way to work, that Charles Murray's much discussed theory of IQ and the black underclass is a lemon. What is plain to this passenger as he proceeds on his daily business from office to office, via the travel agent, the bank, the hairdresser and the hospital is that in all these places there are plenty of black women gainfully employed and giving a general impression of being winners rather than losers in life's lottery. What is equally plain is the near absence, in these workplaces, of the brothers with whom they share both genes and upbringing.

Just what is going on here? The answers are complex, fascinating and only now being given proper consideration. Ten years ago the race relations industry, with the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority to the fore, insisted that all of Britain's non-white ethnic minorities

should be lumped together under the label "black, disadvantaged and under-achieving". Then the GLC and the ILA were abolished and for several years, until the 1991 census with its detailed questions on race, the practice of collecting official statistics that could confirm or deny this politically charged proposition was largely suspended.

Only in the last two or three years have academics such as Tariq Modood, Heidi Mirza, Trevor Jones and David Gillborn been demonstrating how thoroughly dishonest and dangerous for public policy this generalisation is. To find the truth about Britain's ethnic minorities you must sub-divide and sub-divide again. Thus, while you can say correctly that black people are not now under-represented in higher education, you should add that Bangladeshis certainly are but that black Africans are the most



MARGOT NORMAN

over-represented of all groups including whites, and that among Afro-Caribbeans girls heavily outnumber boys.

Both Afro-Caribbean girls and boys stay on at school longer than whites, but their outcomes are so different they might as well be different tribes. Typically, the boys go for technical courses, miss out on the better ones with jobs attached, and emerge later than their white contemporaries with qualifications that won't take them into higher education and are of use only in areas of the job market where unemployment is high.

The girls (like girls in general) do better at school and then make a canny job of negotiating the system. They go for saleable skills (secretarial, hairdressing) or "caring specialisations" (childcare, nursing, social work) that confer paper qualifications with which, if they wish, they can continue through higher education.

Tradition is behind much of this diversion. When the West Indian immigrants first arrived, the men went into construction or public transport, which has since contracted, and the women went into social work or the health service which has not.

The tradition of the breadwinning mother has much to do with it too: the Afro-Caribbean group contains the highest proportion of female heads of household, of single parent families, of women with young children who are in full-time work. The girls grow up expecting to earn a living, so they buy

into the system and work it as best they can. Starting so often from rotten schools in rotten areas, they manage, in short, to over-achieve.

The boys, meanwhile are faced with a conundrum. At school their style of masculinity is the coolest thing around, a style that pulls the girls, that other boys emulate. On the other hand, it makes them five times more likely than the girls to get chucked out of school; and, as white pupils have repeatedly attested to Ms Mirza, this style gets the black boys picked on and cuts off some of their routes to post-school success.

Even buckling down and working at school brings fewer rewards for the boys than the girls. Labour Force Survey statistics show that half of all Afro-Caribbean males with A levels or higher qualifications are doing manual work. No wonder that, as Ms Mirza found in

her studies of inner-city schools, so many of them have concluded that any effort on their part to play the system will be futile. The only thing the boys are all queuing up for now is the music business, which looks to them like the best career bet. No doubt we can look forward to a lot of brilliant black bands, but this is hardly going to solve the twin problem of black male identity and unemployment.

If part of what we're looking at here is racial discrimination against black boys but not black girls, then Ms Mirza is right to be looking into how black boys contribute to their own problems. Pressures are mounting for an adjustment to the Afro-Caribbean notion of masculinity. If the "new man" is the white world's corollary to female emancipation, how come the Caribbean world, in which women have always worked for a living, has produced a male archetype right at the other end of the spectrum? The untuckable truth seems to be that there's no room for it in the bus queue.

Just the man to chop Dickens

David Lodge's characters spend their lives in indecision: wavering between 20th-century sin and Catholic sobriety; between bumbling England and brash America; between the dreaming spires of academia and the belching chimneys of industry.

The author of *Small World* and *Nice Work* is equally schizophrenic. As far as I can see, there are two David Lodges. David One lives with his wife of 39 years in a leafy Birmingham suburb; until recently he was Professor of Modern English at the university; and he bears an uncanny resemblance to his shabby creation Philip Swallow.

David Two has a flat in sleazy Soho and churns out best-selling, Booker short-listed novels, not unlike his hip, cool and transatlantic character Morris Zapp.

Now, however, David Two is taking over. Lodge, 59, has quit the campus and divides his time between novels and television scripts. A few years ago he adapted *Nice Work* for the small screen, on the basis of which he was entrusted with the BBC's latest classic dramatisation: *Martin Chuzzlewit*, which starts on Monday.

Earlier this week *Chuzzlewit* became a one-day wonder, when it was revealed that Lodge had fallen out with the director Petr James over the six-part serial's ending. Lodge had written a happy scene of three weddings. James preferred a heartbreaking soliloquy from the novel's most poignant character, Tom Finch. Neither accorded with Dickens's finale, in which the

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets David Lodge, Eng Lit professor, novelist and scriptwriter for *Martin Chuzzlewit*



Lodge: agreed to stop defending his original ending

shrewish Charity Pecksniff is jilted at the altar. James's ending won and Lodge, although plainly annoyed, is gracious in defeat. "For technical reasons my ending didn't work on television as I'd described it in the screenplay," he laughs. "So I agreed to abandon attempts to defend it any longer."

We are drinking tea in the Groucho Club in London. Lodge, in a crumpled raincoat and baggy suit, appears to be in David One mode. He has beady brown eyes beneath shaggy brows, a hook nose and the diffident demeanour of those who hate interviews but are too polite to say so. Initially, he stares at his hairy hands and mutters into his Assam, but gradually he warms to his theme and his

alter ego emerges. "Wasn't Dickens's ending good enough for you, I ask. 'Well,' he says, 'it's a rather sour note. In the novel Charity Pecksniff is something of an ugly sister, but the actress who plays her has made her sympathetic. There is a lot of pathos.'"

The same could be said for most of the cast of *Chuzzlewit*, who succeed in breathing life into Dickens's cardboard cut-outs. "Dickens was a very theatrical writer which is both a positive thing and a danger. He can easily seem over the top and you have to be careful not to breach the boundaries or some of the characters become grotesque. On the other hand, you mustn't lose the vitality and the gusto of the writing."

Although Dickens has a crueler vision than Lodge, both write firmly within an English tradition of entertainment and manipulation, treating serious arguments in a comic way. Lodge humbly acknowledges the comparison. "I'm a Cockney and so was Dickens. I have always had this feeling for showbiz - my father was a professional dance musician, who sometimes played theatres and later was a television extra."

Both have been accused of sentimentality and both have been sneered at by what Lodge describes as "more intellectual writers". "People think you can't be a good writer if you are also popular."

No wonder some of them were miffed. It can't have been easy for David One's colleagues to see their cosy, cloistered existence represented by David Two as a boisterous, bedhopping carnival. And didn't Lodge, whose fictional creations were giving lectures along the lines of "Textuality as Strip-tease" and "Romance as Invagination", find it difficult to keep a straight face when he produced his own, excellent works of lit?

"I found I could switch from a novel to criticism," he replies. "But I could see a lot of the discourse had its absurd side and was very easy to mock. If you just get the catalogue of an academic press you fall about laughing. The other day I saw a title: *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Gender and Discourse*. Given the other context of fat is a feminist issue it was so funny."

When I was a student I longed for groovy, Booker-judge tutors like Lodge. Was he mobbed by star-struck groupies as he walked the red-brick corridors? No, he says. "I

kept a *cordon sanitaire* around my writing and I was regarded as rather an austere teacher. I made a distinction which became increasingly difficult to maintain between the novels and the teaching and I became sick of balancing the two sides of my life."

In 1987 Lodge took early retirement. "I'd been teaching in the same place for 27 years. I was and still am getting deaf (we have been bellowing at each other for the past hour). There was an increasing number of students, so many that you couldn't remember their names, and you felt you were on a treadmill, never able to do anything perfectly."

In contrast, when you make a programme it's as good as it possibly can be. Television has come to replace academic life for me. You have the same the collegiate element, working with other people, but you aren't repeating yourself year after year.

In any case, the tensions between the shambolic Brits and slick Americans that fuelled books such as *Changing Places* had vanished. "Academic culture is definitely Americanised," says Lodge, "and we have the worse side of the deal."

In his next novel *Therapy*, to be published in May, the hero is a TV sitcom writer, who resorts to the library shelf to resolve a growing sense of unhappiness. Clearly, David Two - who spends the post-interview drink giggling affably, chatting knowledgeably about Quentin Tarantino and quoting from the script of *Saturday Night Fever* - cannot quite forget David One. Swallow has not been completely Zapped.

● Martin Chuzzlewit begins this Monday on BBC2 at 9pm.



Julia Sawalha as Mercy Pecksniff and Keith Allen as Jonas Chuzzlewit in David Lodge's witty BBC adaptation

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Chef Herbert Berger, restaurant manager David Arcusi and Frances Bissell

The autumn menus

subject to daily market availability

November 21

Game terrine
Kedgeree of smoked haddock with quail egg and mango and curry sauce
Jugged hare, with seasonal vegetables
British farmhouse cheeses
Pear sorbet
Apple and almond crumble with mead ice cream and saffron sauce

November 22

Potted pheasant
Scallop, bacon and wild mushroom salad with chervil and truffle vinaigrette
Venison, hare and pigeon cobbler, with seasonal vegetables
British farmhouse cheeses
Pear sorbet
18th century sherry trifle

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quoting The Times dinners for readers. Frances Bissell's spring dinners were fully booked within a few hours of going on sale, so you are advised not to delay.

London owes its improving theatres to a vibrant Australian who is also into cattle, construction and wine

'What audiences care about is loos, bars and tickets'

It was the happiest of occasions this week when the Globe Theatre was ceremoniously translated into The Gielgud.

Sir John said that for years he had walked down Shaftesbury Avenue, and not known a single name outside any of the theatres. "Now at least there will be one name I recognise," he said, which made the gathered thespians and scribes roar.

And who was that tall, handsome, blonde woman at his side? It was Janet Holmes a Court, the Australian queen of Shaftesbury Avenue, owner of 11 West End theatres. It was in her gift to change The Globe's name, as a tribute both to Sir John on his ninetieth birthday, and to the late Sam Wanamaker and his Globe on the South Bank.

She is warm, vibrant, a great theatre enthusiast, and excellent company. From her flat in Soho Square she can walk to any one of her theatres, and does. When I played my tape back, it was punctuated by her loud laughter, and mine.

"I have a nice warm feeling about our theatres," she says. "I can't think of a business in England I'd rather be in: you wouldn't want to be in banking, would you, or insurance?" (She was the daughter of an insurance man — a sometime Communist Party member, very left-wing and musical.)

She had spent the afternoon visiting Sam Wanamaker's Globe, where she had tried out the amazing acoustics. "You can stand right in the middle of it and say [she whispers] *Hello Valerie*, and the sound all comes back at you."

In 1990, when Robert Holmes a Court died in front of his family at the age of 53, of a massive heart attack, he was still struggling out of his vast stock market losses from the 1987 crash. "I just loved him," Janet says simply. Her voice alters slightly when she mentions him. They had met at the

University of Western Australia, where she read chemistry and he read law.

"He was different from anyone I'd ever met in my life, and I guess I always knew he wouldn't sit in a law office for the rest of his life. The day he was admitted to the Bar, he opened a new practice. And even when he was being articulated, his master complained that he had more mail on his desk than anyone else. So, he was different. And as life progresses, you go along with it."

"The upheaval was that he died. In that split second, everything had to change very dramatically."

Instead of giving up and selling off what he had rebuilt, Janet set to at once, and galvanised and revitalised his entire conglomerate of Heytesbury Holdings (Lord Heytesbury is her husband's second cousin) into a dauntingly successful global group, comprising five divisions: cattle, construction, transport, a winery — and Stoll Moss Theatres.

Theatregoers who notice a new pride in the style, staff and service in her theatres have Janet to thank. She soon discovered that the play is not the thing. What audiences care deeply about is (a) going to the lavatory, (b) getting their interval drinks and (c) getting a ticket easily, not necessarily in that order. It is loos and bars, and computerised ticketing and new wiring, that predominate in her £10 million-worth of improvements.

"When we first bought the theatres [in 1981, from Lew Grade] men's lavatories outnumbered ladies' by 25 to one. Were women not expected to go to the theatre in those days? Or were they supposed not to drink? Or wait till they got home? At the Palladium we have turned the Tudor Bar into 25 ladies' loos."

"And we completely re-



Janet Holmes a Court: "My husband had to come first and I had hoped that when our children had gone he would still be there. But things didn't turn out that way."

stored Her Majesty's, even while 1,500 people were coming in every day to see *Phantom*. For six weeks there wasn't even a roof while we renewed the copper dome, and we never missed a show. Quite an achievement."

Janet is a fifth generation Australian who started out as a chemistry teacher in Perth, and now finds herself owning 1 per cent of the entire land mass of Australia. This makes a person patriotic.

When she was paying off Robert's debts she sold their post-impressionist paintings without a qualm ("It was no hardship, since they were forever on loan to art galleries, and when they weren't the house became a prison"), and now she collects only amusing works by Australian artists. "That one I really love" — indicating a Picasso-esque woman with cat. "It's by John Melville, but it would be worth squillions if it were signed Picasso."

She wishes she could bring over some of the Aboriginal drama from the Black Swan Theatre in Perth, which she chairs. And if only the BBC would import *Heartlands*, a sort of Aboriginal *Neighbours* ("only a million times better") starring Ernie Dingo from *Crocodile Dundee*. She is

dismayed that I have not followed *Round The Twist*, the prize-winning series made by her Australian Children's Television Foundation: "My daughter's Oxford friends never miss an episode," she says. Fortunately my similarly addicted children have taped them all, so I now know what she means.

Her four children are in their twenties. "It's a bit difficult for me to talk about it, but when Robert was alive I always felt that he came first in my life. It was my duty to bring up the children to be independent, charming and delightful people who can go off and make their own lives."

"I had seen so many marriages fall apart when the women concentrated on the children and when they were gone there was no relationship between the parents left. My husband had to come first and I had hoped that when our children had gone he would still be there. As it turned out, things didn't work out that way."

"But it meant that the children went to boarding school, for instance, which is not common in Australia. The reasoning behind that was that Robert and I travelled all the time, and I thought they needed the stability of being in

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



one place, and you can't expect babysitters to supervise their homework. Now I'm a bit in two minds about it, because the children have indeed turned out independent, which is terrific for them" — Peter went to Pembroke College, Oxford; Catherine to Merton, where she was a pentathlete, and now fences for Australia; Simon and Paul are at university in the United States — "but it also means they missed out on time they might have spent with their father. It would have been erratic time, but they would have had more time with him."

"And I missed out on helping them with their homework, so I am constantly

amazed by what they can do."

On the other hand, she was always by her husband's side through good times and bad, and the manner in which she has seized the reins of his business and become a popular figurehead for the staff is entirely to be admired.

She travels wherever her companies operate — often to Hanoi and Laos in a hard hat and safety boots, to observe the progress of a bridge they have been building across the Mekong. "I get a great kick out of meeting anyone in the company. As with the theatre, it's important to let them know I'm interested and that they are appreciated. It's not easy to build these amazing structures in the middle of nowhere: you can't just ring up and order a load of cement or a crane — you have to build the crane. And there are no trained workers: they come from the paddy fields and we start from scratch."

She also enjoys the classy little vintage her winery produces, called *Vasse Felix* ("Not your dollar-a-bottle stuff"), named after a river which, in turn, was named after a Frenchman who drowned in it, "at the time when the French were fossicking around down there, until the British stepped in and settled

it just to stop them". The companies she owns may seem diverse, but they are united under her care.

"The first business my husband ever bought," she says, "was a woollen mill, and I went along and found they were making purple blankets. I said, you'll have to stop those purple blankets. But it turned out they were their bestselling line."

So I don't think it's appropriate for me to state my personal preferences in the theatre: if we only put on what I liked we'd go broke."

"There have been times when I was at the opening night of one of our theatres and wished I was somewhere else — one night I would rather have been at the Albert Hall, where Nigel Kennedy was playing the Brahms Violin Concerto, for instance."

"But with so many theatres we can service a huge variety of theatrical tastes — mega-musicals and intimate, experimental things which I'd like to have more of [the range at present includes both Tom Courtenay's solo *Moscow Stations* and the crazy *Onsanta 900*]. The only objective is to have no theatres dark, which is the case, except for the

Palladium, which is waiting for *Oliver*."

Only once did she turn down a show on principle: the Robert Maxwell musical.

I lament the imminent demise of *What A Performance!* in which David Suchet is so engaging as Sid Field, at the Queen's. I wish more people had looked to the excellent *The Winslow Boy* with Peter Barkworth and Simon Williams, last play at the Globe before it became The Gielgud, where Peter Hall's *Hamlet* opens tonight. Janet finds it as hard as anyone to fathom why some things run and some do not. Producing, she says, is only for passionately dedicated optimists.

Yes, it worries her that theatre tickets cost so much. Even if no theatre ever charges what she last paid for *Fidelio* (four tickets at £82 each), she is all for deals like cut-price tickets for Mondays and matinees and students. "I would like to think that everyone in the world could afford to go to the theatre, it is such an important human experience. If people are kept out of the theatre by the cost, and producers lose money, all theatre owners have to address themselves to what can be done to persuade more people to come."

Freemen who have paid the price

The Archbishop and Bishop of Liverpool talk to Ruth Gledhill of friendship, pain, hope and death

Six years after writing about their partnership in *Better Together*, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, Archbishop of Liverpool and spiritual head of the city's 500,000 Roman Catholics, and his Anglican counterpart, the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, have joined forces again in a book, *With Hope In Our Hearts*. "It is a testament without being a last will and testament," says Archbishop Worlock. But as they talk in the lavish mock-Tudor mansion which is home to Dr Sheppard, you realise it may be the last interview they give as a partnership.

The symbiotic friendship between the two has evolved to the point where they are reluctant to be interviewed separately. Dr Sheppard is 65 and expected by some to retire in the next three years. Archbishop Worlock is nearly 75 and speaks freely of his own mortality. Wearing a wooden cross around their necks, one in mahogany and the other rosewood, they sit lopsidedly next to each other: Archbishop Worlock is a cancer survivor and missing a lung; Dr Sheppard rests his leg on a stool. He has survived a hip transplant and subsequent pulmonary embolism. They talk to me of death, hope and resurrection.

One of the most moving passages in *With Hope In Our Hearts* is Archbishop Worlock's description of the difficulty he found praying after his operation. "The greatest trial was the inability to concentrate," he writes. "This deprived me of any satisfac-

tion from prayer. David was among those who encouraged me to leave the praying to others. Almost everyone who came to see me recited the Lord's Prayer. I remained cold as a stone spiritually, and desperately troubled by nightmares."

"It was not until, with an act of grace, I began to recognise that the Lord's neck and shoulder had been twisted and that he had a hole in his side," he tells me, "that I began to see there could be some connection between my weakness and his humanity."

He is respectful of his illness. "You do not defeat cancer — not small-cell cancer. I live in terms of short-term objectives. When I get bookings in my diary for 1996, I have a bit of a chuckle. I give a provisional yes, and say they had better check in a few months' time."

Dr Sheppard, a former England cricket captain, takes up the theme. "The Resurrection has always been for both of us a great common ground." He does not dismiss the real presence of fear — of pain and of dying. He is grateful for all the letters sent and the prayers that have been said for them both, and particularly to an Australian who visited him in hospital and talked of nothing but cricket. "Underneath it all is my awareness that the risen Lord is with me and that awareness goes beyond this world."

Archbishop Worlock has had to teach himself to stagger his breath to deliver a long speech or sermon. "I discovered that differences in tem-



The leaders' ecumenical cooperation "is the realisation of a bond starting at baptism"

perature make a difference. You can go from a warm room to a cold corridor and be quite breathless. I am a fairly slow speaker when I preach. In our cathedral, you have to be."

The Catholic cathedral, "Paddy's Wigwag" as it is known, is in the round. For a man with breathlessness and persistent pain in his neck, shoulders and side, addressing 1,000 people there presents a challenge.

Dr Sheppard's cathedral, begun in 1904 and completed in 1978, presents its own difficulties for a man who can barely walk. Before he delivers a sermon, he has to hobble across what is the largest Anglican church in the world and the largest cathedral in Britain. I suggest that the two swap cathedrals for a time.

Their unique ecumenical cooperation for nearly 20 years has helped to heal many of the wounds which have marked Liverpool for decades, although for Dr Sheppard, a "huge disappointment" is the

city's chronic unemployment and poverty. They both speak with passion of their hopes for a joint Catholic and Anglican school within their time.

Every alternate Pentecost, the two begin a service in one cathedral and walk the length of Hope Street to finish it off in the other. People think it odd at big civic and religious functions if they are not together. "It is the realisation of a bond which starts from baptism," says Archbishop Worlock, whose inter-church rivalry stops at the caviar that David Sheppard has two walking sticks and he has one.

Both have recently been made freemen of the City of Liverpool. "I was in hospital being patched up for the next round, just before David went in," says Archbishop Worlock, "when the resolution went through the council. They brought me the paper. I was very weak at the time, and I just wept. It was the fulfilment of my desire

both to identify with the people here, and for the acceptance of the church's role in the daily life, problems and challenges of this city."

After their respective brushes with death, Archbishop Worlock and Dr Sheppard decided to write a second book recording progress since the first. "I hope that some of the experiences we have had, and difficulties we have faced," Archbishop Worlock says, "may help whoever eventually has the privilege to lead this community."

I depart saying I look forward to seeing him at the National Conference of Priests — the annual meeting of priests from England and Wales — in Birmingham next September. He has missed only one since 1969, but this time he smiles, his head cocked on one side and responds: "Maybe."

With Hope in our Hearts by David Sheppard and Derek Worlock is published this week by Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99.

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Philip Howard



Fishing in dangerous waters sometimes nets an interesting word

Codfish sounds like the name of a merman. As Toadfish might be the name of a terrestrial goblin. But the word is more interesting than such fantasies. It is an antique euphemism from the verb that conjugates: I cod, you are economical with the truth, s/he is a shameless liar and cheat who should be strung up. Bad behaviour creates more slang synonyms than other departments of life, because there are many interesting and interesting gradations from which it can be seen. Sin comes in black and white only for absolute fanatics. I am still not sure whom the editor of *The Guardian* intended to deceive with his cod fish concocted with the owner of the Paris Ritz, but it is a less heinous sort of forgery than, for example, forging a will to deprive orphans of their inheritance, or, for that matter, taking sweeteners (bribes) for performing for a parliamentary lobbyist.

"Henry Root" made a funny book out of replies to similar cod forgeries, and this year two dog-eared codgers writing under the nom-de-cod of "Francis Wagstaffe" extracted a book of bluish-making replies from guileless church leaders who had replied to their forgeries. It is unkind to make fools of busy people for being unselfish enough to answer unsolicited mail. But humour is usually unkind, rarely criminal. Since cod signatures are so much in the news, I read with narrowed eyes a letter that arrived only yesterday signed "Alfonso Torrents delis Prats". It asked an earnest question about why so many English names end with the suffix -ell. Nevertheless, I answered it with wary circumspection. Failed again, Howard.

Cod is an old-fashioned euphemism for a trick, cheat or subterfuge. The modern slang to excuse a venial deceit would be con, or scam or sting. Cod is redolent of the old *Manchester Guardian*, set about with C.P. Scott and Michael Frayn in shabby armchairs smelling of pipe-smoke. It is charmingly apt that this word old word is the one that comes to the editor's mind to excuse his trick. Appropriately, *The Guardian* is the latest authority cited by *The Oxford English Dictionary* for cod used as a sympathetic euphemism for a hoax.

This sounds like a libel on the harmless cod. Sid Perelman was sacked by an editor for writing a leader on one of the recurrent Cod Wars off Nova Scotia from the point of view of the fish. But not even the trustiest leader-writer has accused the codfish of being cheats or frauds. If they were a bit fishier in the gutless sense, fewer of them would end up in batter with chips and vinegar. Modern supermarkets describe as "cod fish" the extraneous fat they buy separately to wrap around joints as decoration, to cod their customers with images suggesting healthy, green, pasture-fed beasts.

As a euphemism applicable to foxes, cod has an old and eventful history. It is the low-life slang of the century of Peachum and Captain Macheath. The word was used to describe a fool, a dear friend, an old man and other assorted types. One theory is that it is an abbreviation of codger, which was originally a contemptuous description of a mean old fellow, and may be a dialectal variant of codger. But has certainly been influenced by codger, but the former cannot have started life as an abbreviation of the latter, for it was being used a century earlier.

If you are tracking down wild slang (a far mazier chase than hunting the settlers of hotel bills or the purchaser of parliamentary questions), the original source is the *Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, by that learned old codger Francis Grose. He records several interesting cods in 18th-century thieves' cant, most of them euphemistically gross. "Cods" was slang for the scrotum, and Grose relates one of his banal anecdotes to illustrate its use: "Also a nickname for a curate. A rude fellow meeting a curate, mistook him for the rector, and asked him with the vulgar appellation of Bawls, the rector (Grose's stars, not mine). No, Sir, answered he only Cods the curate, at your service."

It is sport to see the sanctimonious *Guardian* stained with ink on its faces. But it is cods, in all its meanings, including the fishy libel and codswallop, to compare Peter Preston's fax with official corruption.



PENNY BLACKS

Alan Brooke
+ xi 94

Governing without purpose

What is the Major Government for? The Cabinet's decision to drop full-scale privatisation of the Post Office is a turning point: the final demise of Thatcherism, as the last echoes of the politics of the 1980s fade away. Its importance was underlined by the unusual length of yesterday's Cabinet meeting, stretching well beyond 1pm and forcing ministers to cancel lunch dates. Michael Heseltine admitted that it was a defeat. Privatisation was, after all, one of the distinctive features of Thatcherism. Former ministers such as Norman Lamont and Cecil Parkinson were lamenting a failure of nerve and a blurring of the Tories' distinctive appeal.

The decision on the Post Office symbolises many long-standing questions about John Major's style as Prime Minister, and a more general question about the direction of Conservatism. Mr Major's premiership has been more successful than is commonly reckoned. He brought the Tory party together after the bitterness of the coup against Lady Thatcher and dealt with the policy contradictions that she had left over Europe, the economy and the poll tax. He produced victory in the 1992 election, against the odds and the polls. He steered the party through the Maastricht jungle, and the Citizen's Charter has focused attention on the public services. There have been obvious minus as well, notably the debacle surrounding the forced withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism.

Mr Major's is a subtle and skilful chairman of the Cabinet, and has acute antennae for the party's mood. But these strengths mirror his central weakness: an inability to articulate a clear strategy. The Citizen's Charter is a good idea which has produced benefits on the ground but has seldom escaped the trap of bureaucratic jargon to capture the public imagination. "Back to basics", while touching a popular chord, was never properly thought out, so it was easily sidetracked earlier this year in a debate about personal morality and the private lives of obscure MPs. At the Conservative Party conference three weeks ago, Mr Major signalled a change of approach: a shift from radicalism towards consolidation. He was persuaded that he should not develop any grand themes. He joked dismissively about "the vision thing" and the search for "new directions". Instead, he stressed his preference for

Peter Riddell asks if yesterday's Cabinet meeting marked the end of Thatcherism

"the practical thing" and for continuity and stability. "Look for the achievements of government not always in bold plans of grand conflicts, but sometimes in mended fences, too; and sometimes in the accretion of small steps whose pattern takes time to become clear."

That was the authentic John Major: a statement not just of his temperament, but also of his immediate political dilemma. The bitter Tory battles since 1992 have convinced him of the need for a period of healing. The Government is vulnerable within the Commons, not only because of its small — and declining — majority, but also because

overhaul of pensions regulation and a shake-up of agricultural tenancies. Senior ministers were last night presenting these Bills as a continuation of the "supply side" programme to improve underlying economic performance. So they are. But overall they fall in the category of "mended fences" — worthy departmental measures — rather than radical leaps forward. They fit Mr Major's style of managerial government, as does his pledge to teachers that there will be "no further significant changes" in the national curriculum for the next five years.

Whatever the Thatcherites' misgivings, this "safety first" strategy may make electoral sense. Mr Major believes that ordinary voters, those currently fed up with the Tories, do not care about new ideas, big or little. What they want is competent government. His strategy is to rely on a couple of years of sustained non-inflationary growth, with interest rates not rising much above current levels, and perhaps two tax-cutting Budgets before a 1997 election. Add in a challenge to Labour about whether they would spend and tax more, and a nationalist appeal on Europe, and the Tories reckon they can win yet again. The trouble is the lack of a clear theme.

But it is not just a question of Mr Major and the Tories' parliamentary troubles. There is "a wider crisis of conservatism", as David Willets, one of the Tories' few thinkers, wrote earlier this year, before becoming silenced as a whip. He argued that this was in part because Lady Thatcher was so successful in slaying some of Britain's dragons, at home and abroad. Mr Willets quoted Cavafy's famous poem about the inhabitants of a civilised city preparing all day to receive the barbarians. When they discover the barbarians are no longer there, they don't know what to do.

And now, what's going to happen to us without barbarians? They were, those people, a kind of solution.

Planned future measures are more administrative than visionary

The search for an alternative solution has eluded right-wing parties around the world, including the American Republicans and Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats in Germany. The Republicans may achieve big gains in the mid-term elections next Tuesday, but that is primarily because of voters' disillusion with President Clinton's performance in the White House, rather than because of any enthusiasm for the Republicans' alternative. The "Contract with America", the manifesto of the House Republicans unveiled by Newt Gingrich, is full of the contradictions and sleight-of-hand on tax and spending which bedevilled Reaganomics and pushed up the federal budget deficit during the 1980s.

The Right is unsure of its direction. Writing recently about American conservatives, Daniel Finkelstein of the Social Market Foundation identified several competing, and overlapping, strands: retrenchment, involving cuts in the size and scope of government; empowerment, stressing deregulation and decentralisation via markets and tax incentives; cultural, relating the rise of an underclass to a decline in moral values; and nationalist, developing a programme of economic protectionism, isolationism and tougher controls on immigration. All have echoes in Britain.

Many mainstream Tories are sceptical about retrenchment, asking if Margaret Thatcher failed to reduce the size of the public sector, what chance does the weaker Major Government stand? Mr Willets argues that free market decentralisation and deregulation have to be supplemented by an emphasis on traditional values and institutions.

Several senior Tories, from Douglas Hurd to Michael Portillo, have sought to define this new approach. But none has so far carried conviction. This is not surprising with such a long-serving administration. Mr Major's Government has not recaptured the intellectual vitality and sharpness of the Tories' early years in office. Yesterday's Cabinet decision was a recognition of that weakness and of a lack of political will among Tory MPs. Even after four years in No 10, Mr Major has yet to show that he is more than a transitional leader dealing with the aftermath of Thatcherism. He has to counter Norman Lamont's cruel jibe of nearly 18 months ago that his Government is in office but not in power.

Can an editor be too free?

John Grigg reflects on the control of newspapers

The Peter Preston affair focuses attention on editorial freedom, a subject which is rather more complicated than it first appears. The Scott Trust gives the editor of *The Guardian* a freedom not enjoyed by most editors, and his position must be all the stronger when the chairman of the trust is a fellow journalist and colleague on the paper (at present, Hugo Young). There is also a board of directors, of which the editor is chairman.

In 1956 the fact that the editor of *The Manchester Guardian* (as it was still) was free to take his own line on a major public issue, regardless of the consequences, provided a striking vindication of the system. Alastair Hetherington, just appointed at the age of 36, led the paper in denouncing the Suez invasion at a time when majority opinion in the country passionately supported the Eden Government's action.

For the first three days, the paper lost about a third of its circulation, but the trust stood firm behind Hetherington. Whatever his private view, the trust's chairman, Laurence Scott, told the editor to go on saying what he thought. One of the trustees made critical noises, but did not resign. If they had not backed him, however, would Hetherington have survived?

As editor of *The Observer*, David Astor took the same line on Suez, but he did not receive solid support from the Observer Trust. Indeed, half the trustees resigned, including Lord Portal of Hungerford, the former Chief of Air Staff. But Astor did not resign, because the trust was little more than a façade for his family's financial control. His honourable and courageous stand on Suez should be seen, therefore, as an exercise in proprietorship, as much as editorial freedom.

The Observer's circulation held up well during the Suez crisis, and *The Guardian's* soon recovered from the initial shock. But the ill-will of advertisers was more serious, particularly to *The Observer* which had to exist on its own without a profitable stable-mate such as *The Manchester Evening News*.

Proprietors, whether individuals or trusts, are bound to have the last word. Editorial freedom is an important principle, but in reality it cannot — perhaps should not — be absolute. The nearest it ever came to being absolute was on *The Times* during the proprietorship of Major J.J. Astor (Lord Astor of Hever), and the precedent holds a warning.

Astor (whose brother, Waldorf, David's father, controlled *The Observer*) took control of *The Times* after Northcliffe's death in 1922, and immediately asked Geoffrey Dawson to return as Editor. Dawson had been Editor under Northcliffe from 1912 to 1919, but resigned because he found the proprietor increasingly overbearing. He agreed to return only on terms that ensured, so far as assurance was possible, that his independence would be unfettered. In fact, it was unfettered because Astor felt duty-bound to leave the Editor entirely free.

If editorial freedom were the unique and paramount requirement, this should have been a golden age for the paper. But was it? In one sense the Astor period was an exceptionally bad one, since it witnessed the slavish appeasement of Hitler and (under Dawson's successor, Barrington-Walker) of Stalin — a double of which no paper could be proud. Dawson was in fact a better Editor (and *The Times* was a better paper) under Northcliffe than under Astor.

As well as being a great entrepreneur, Northcliffe was a great journalist, whose knowledge of many matters including continental Europe, was far superior to Dawson's, though Dawson was the more highly educated man. Between them, they produced a stimulating paper. During the Astor period, the co-proprietor, John Walter IV, who also knew far more about Europe than Dawson, remonstrated with him about a leader arguing that Czechoslovakia should cede the Sudetenland to Germany. But Dawson paid no attention, and Walter had no right to press his view.

Another moral to be drawn: from Dawson's second incarnation is that editors should do as they would be done by. In October 1938, *The Times's* lobby correspondent, Anthony Winn, reported favourable reactions in Parliament to Duff Cooper's resignation speech after Munich. Dawson suppressed what Winn had written and substituted the comment that the speech had been "a damp squib", still attributing it to the lobby correspondent. Winn resigned.

Roy Thomson was supposedly as permissive as Astor, but there were limits to his tolerance. If William Rees-Mogg, who was Editor of *The Times* throughout his proprietorship, had ever been tempted to criticise the royal family, he would have been in trouble with Thomson, despite all the pledges of editorial independence that Thomson had given on acquiring the paper. There might also have been trouble if Rees-Mogg's switch from Euro-fascism to Euro-scepticism had occurred while he was Editor, for Thomson was a strong "European".

Freedom of the press and quality journalism depend upon conditions that cannot be too strictly defined. As in other spheres of human activity, personal qualities and their interplay are all-important. The right balance is not necessarily achieved by rules or conventions. Intelligence and conscience are always the best guides.

John Grigg is the author of *The History of The Times, 1966-1981* (Times Books, £25).

White on black

THE PEOPLE who delivered a knockout blow to Michael Heseltine over the Post Office have a surprise in store for the Transport Secretary, Brian Mawhinney. The lobbying team at Lowe Bell is revving up to fight the corner of London cabbies, a group one might not have thought in need of vocal representation.

Drivers of the capital's black cabs are aggrieved that a forthcoming White Paper may allow mini-cab drivers to be licensed without learning "the knowledge". So they have enlisted some of the slickest operators in town to bring their protest to Parliament.

Lowe Bell Consulting — a sister company of Lowe Bell Political, which took on Hezza — will spell out the case for proper licensing and regulation of taxis and minicabs in half-a-dozen trade rags. Then the fully briefed cabbies will turn their natural eloquence on a captive audience.

"On the morning of the State Opening of Parliament, because of the security, most members have to travel to Westminster by taxi," explains senior consultant Shimon Cohen. "When a lady of gentleman asks to go to the House of Commons, the driver will raise the

question of the White Paper with them on the journey. They will not be berating them, but discussing the issues in the interesting and knowledgeable way they do."

● A \$3 million lawsuit might deter lesser mortals, but not Joan Collins. Apparently unconcerned that publisher Random House is suing her for the return of the \$3 million advance it paid for books it eventually judged unpublishable, the actress is pressing on with her literary career. Her latest

THEY WROTE UPON IT... RETURN TO SENDER



outpouring. Too Damn Famous. Is due out next June from Orion. She's sticking to what she knows this time: it's about an American soap star's failed marriage.

Lucky him

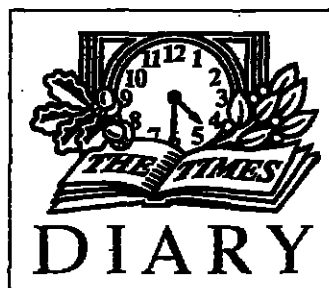
SIR Kingsley Amis, who burst onto the literary scene 40 years ago with *Lucky Jim*, has walked out on Hutchinson, his publisher of 16 years, who published his 1986 Booker winner, *The Old Devils*.

Money appears to be the key: HarperCollins, who stepped up to an astonishing £275,000 for his next two novels. The first, *The Biographer's Moustache*, is due next autumn, at the same time as a biography by his long-time drinking-partner Eric Jacobs.

Undiplomatic

AS WELL AS humiliating Hezza, yesterday's marathon Cabinet meeting on the Post Office landed Douglas Hurd in something of a diplomatic stew. For the Foreign Secretary should have been at his official residence with the Duke of York, hosting a lunch in honour of Eduardo Menem, brother of the Argentine President.

FO staff admitted being "a tad embarrassed" as the famished guests started on boudin of



smoked haddock and roast haunch of venison — without Hurd. When he eventually arrived, he appeared to side with Heseltine. "I've been trying to persuade them (Cabinet colleagues) that you are privatising your postal services," he explained to Menem.

Fighting fit

LUCK has run out for Roberto Alagna, the Covent Garden tenor who was deluged with peonies from adoring female fans when *Roméo et Juliette* opened last week. In successive performances he has sustained two separate injuries to his shoulder in the fight scene with Tybalt. Tonight he steps on stage again. Royal Opera House staff will be watching nervously from the wings.

The cause of the injuries is a mystery. According to a spokeswoman, the fight scene is "not particularly long, and they don't use swords or anything". Alagna, she guesses, is not only dashing but toned and athletic. "We're hoping for the best."

● It's not all relaxation for MPs in the next fortnight. As she did not make it to Strasbourg as an MEP, Edwina Currie plans next week to swap the Commons for the Duma, Russia's parliament. "I'm going with Dale Campbell-Savours," says Currie — although, I hasten to add, the visit is strictly business.

Hearts again

STILL potentially charming in his sixties, Omar Sharif was wowing the ladies by kissing their hands on Wednesday night at Claridges, where he was playing in a bridge tournament in aid of the charity Wellbeing. The game now dominates his time, and as he has no plans to make any further films, Sharif is embarking on another change in his life.

After 30 years based in Paris, he is going home to Egypt. "I have decided to move back to Cairo," he sighs huskily. "But this is only possible because my treasured housekeeper, Pepita, has agreed to come with me. I was utterly spoilt by my mother so I am completely help-



Helpless with his hands

less and I need her to do all my cooking and ironing."

● Lord Parkinson does not, apparently, have it easy in the matrimonial boudoir. In an interview with her local paper, the *Edgware and Mill Hill Times*, Lady Parkinson confesses to her most disgusting habit: "Leaving my shoes scattered all over the bedroom floor, so my husband falls over them."

P.H.S



SCHOOL FOR POLITICS

Labour's policy on opting out is a test of much else

The Labour attitude to grant-maintained schools has proved a useful litmus test of its general ideological approach to local government and the public services. At the last election, in spite of efforts by modernisers to soften the party's opposition to opted-out schools, Labour fought the campaign intending to return them all to town hall control. Now, Tony Blair and his new education spokesman, David Blunkett, have adopted a more conciliatory stance, inviting heads and governors in the grant-maintained sector to offer their own views on the future role of their schools under a Labour government.

Mr Blair and — more surprisingly — Mr Blunkett have already done much to change the language Labour uses to describe education policy, celebrating classroom discipline, parental choice and competition far more vigorously than their predecessors. But the Opposition's instinctive hostility to opting out remains clear. As recently as July, Mr Blair announced that all opted-out schools would be subject to a "local democratic framework" under a Labour government. Mr Blunkett has said that it remains the Opposition's intention to abolish grant-maintained status. It will take much persuasion to make Labour shift its policy as far as it should.

Already 1,142 schools have voted to leave local authority control. Labour has tended to assume that most have done so to take advantage of preferential funding. But this underestimates the other attractions of grant-maintained status. When Mr Blunkett meets heads and governors from these schools, he will discover that many chose to leave local authority control for quite different reasons: to escape town hall bureaucracy, to maximise their independence or to develop subject specialisations.

He will find that parents tend to identify more strongly with schools once they have left town hall control, and that many grant-maintained schools have become focuses of community loyalty. Seeking to disrupt this would be a serious electoral mistake.

The outcome of this internal party debate will say much about Mr Blair's definition of "community", a concept which has become central to Labour's political vocabulary. He needs to demonstrate that he means more than local government when he uses this word, and that Labour's new politics of community amounts to more than a plan to restore town hall power. It may be that the Government has withdrawn too much power from local authorities. But much of what is said about "quangos" and "centralisation" is lazy and ill-informed.

Labour still believes that public services can be made responsible to their consumers only through local council politics and that devolution stops at the town hall door. In fact, local education authorities are mostly run by unelected officials. Grant-maintained schools, it can be argued, are truly accountable institutions. They leave council control only after a parental ballot; they include a high proportion of parents on their governing bodies; they are free to respond to the specific educational needs of neighbourhoods.

A proper consideration of grant-maintained status should make Labour question its dedication to uniformity in public services. One of the most notable achievements of the last 15 years has been the development of pluralistic local governance, in which town hall, trusts, development corporations and neighbourhood bodies all have a part to play. Labour now has a chance to demonstrate its grasp of this new constitutional reality.

BALKAN BEGINNINGS

Romania still has a way to go to recover from its past

President Ion Iliescu leaves London today, concluding the first visit to this country by a Romanian leader since the débâcle of his tyrannical predecessor, Nicolae Ceausescu's state visit in 1978. Mr Iliescu brought with him the welcome announcement of a pardon for the British couple convicted for attempting to smuggle an illegally adopted child across the Romanian border. That decision, it seems, is intended to be understood as a gesture of open-heartedness, congruent with Romania's desire to be readmitted to the European family and to partake fully in the business life and security arrangements of the Continent.

No one could claim that Mr Iliescu lacks enthusiasm for economic reform and European integration. He also deserves recognition for progress made against a background of an insecure and divided society, still traumatised by its past. Inflation has been contained, the national currency stabilised and the fractious coalition government has even managed to unite behind a privatisation programme.

But like many of his countrymen, Mr Iliescu must still wrestle with his personal demons. One of them is an inadequate grasp of the commitment needed to give a mature democracy to emerge from the ruins of dictatorship. Despite embracing the rudiments of free elections and a free press, he all too often reverts to the sort of threatening language and paranoid outbursts demonstrated in his interview with *The Times* today. These traits impede the development of an opposition that is still smarting from the blows that its supporters received from the miners during the violent confrontation in the capital in June 1992 and fearful that its

existence is tolerated rather than encouraged by the head of state.

Romania has faced a tougher task than most other countries in Eastern Europe. The political repression and economic mismanagement under Ceausescu were more acute than anywhere, with the exception of Albania, a country whose poverty remains grim to this day and whose industrial and agricultural reforms are proving painful and difficult to enact. But the Albanians, who not so long ago were the butt of jokes for their eccentric brand of Stalinism, have taken up the challenges of creating democratic conditions with an energy sustained despite scant attention from the international community. This weekend they will vote on a new constitution, proposed by President Sali Berisha, that will strike from the statute book the last vestige of totalitarianism — the commitment to the dictatorship of the proletariat. The new document upholds freedom of religion in a country where atheism was once the state doctrine, and provides for the separation of executive, legislative and judiciary powers.

All of these are features that President Iliescu would claim apply to the new Romania. But the slanted TV news, unchecked rhetoric of nationalist firebrands, and persistence of a political elite which has never faced up to its responsibility for the past are symptoms of a body politic not yet fully recovered from its sickness. Romanians still look down on Albania as the one country with a worse inheritance than their own. But as he returns home, Mr Iliescu might like to reflect that the gap between word and deed is closing faster in Tirana than in Bucharest.

A RISK FOR THE LOTTERY

Ari starts when capital spending stops

This is the traditional season when the arts world rehearses for the most angst-soaked drama of the year, *The Allocation of the Arts Council Grant*. But all is unusually quiet in thespian quarters this November — and with good reason. The standard creaky old melodrama has been eclipsed by a new thriller, *Waiting for the Lottery Money*.

A smash-hit is predicted, bringing a £150 million annual boost to Britain's arts. But until the curtain rises, a hush has spread over the theatre. No arts chief is going to scream with rage at not receiving an extra £5,000 from the Arts Council if it jeopardises the chances of getting a £5 million supplement from the National Lottery next year.

Even if the forecasts are not fully met, the four Arts Councils of Great Britain will probably see their disposable income rise from about £230 million to more than £350 million. That should surely inject new vigour into cultural life. The disputed question, however, is whether lottery funds should be used, as the Government has decreed, solely for capital projects — the building of new theatres, the repair of crumbling ones and endowments for future maintenance — or whether it should also provide revenue funding.

Good reasons support the former view. Confining new money to new projects emphasises the principle that lottery revenue is intended not to replace conventional arts subsidy but to supplement it. This reassures those in the arts world cynical enough to maintain that what the lottery will give with one hand the Treasury will remove with the other. And there is no doubt that the

fabric of many venues — from the Royal Opera House with its pre-1918 stage machinery to the local museums with buckets under leaky roofs — is in dilapidated condition.

There is a limit, however, to how much fabric can be purchased or repaired. This limit could be reached very fast. Moreover, there is no point in building splendid new venues if they place an intolerable strain on a subsidy system that can barely cope with present demands. Paying for the bricks and mortar is only the first step — and not necessarily the most expensive — towards establishing a new theatre or art gallery. Somebody has to take responsibility for funding what happens inside.

If those responsible for allocating lottery funds need a terrible warning of what can go wrong, they need only look at the débâcle of the Bastille Opera in Paris. Or they should consider the many British regional arts centres that were built in the idealistic Sixties. Most teeter on the brink of insolvency; some have already gone dark. Their urgent need is for money to cover day-to-day running costs; this is precisely what the Government says that the lottery cannot provide.

Clearly there is less glory to be had from bolstering worthy existing projects than from erecting gleaming new monuments. But if the lottery is half as successful as its champions hope, there is a compelling argument for adopting both approaches simultaneously. To let superb performing companies wither for want of a few thousand pounds, while pouring millions into grandiose new culture-palaces, would be a certain way of bringing the lottery into disrepute.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Questions that face the House on privilege and the law

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, Some MPs are defending the Privileges Committee's decision to sit in private on grounds of "natural justice". However, it is difficult to see which element of natural justice would be offended by open hearings.

There are, classically, two principles of natural justice. The first (as expressed in the 1932 report of the Committee on Ministers' Powers, Cmd 4060) is that "a man may not be a judge in his own cause". Its main relevance would presumably be to disqualify from membership of the committee any MP, should there be one, who had accepted money for tabling a parliamentary question.

If the scope of the inquiry goes wider — as its terms of reference may permit — to touch on issues relating to MPs accepting paid consultancies, then the principle suggests that the several MPs on the committee who have such interests should also disqualify themselves.

The second principle, in the words of the report, is: "No party ought to be condemned unheard; and if his right to be heard is to be a reality, he must know in good time the case which he has to meet." This presumably requires that anyone whose conduct is investigated by the committee be told in advance of all allegations to be raised and permitted to present a prepared statement as well as to answer questions.

It is difficult to see any basis in natural justice for arguing that a hearing which takes place without legal representation must be secret. More relevant may be the principle, as set out in O. Hood Phillips's 1978 standard text, *Constitutional and Administrative Law*, that

One of the chief safeguards of the impartial administration of justice lies in the common law right of the public, including the press, to be present and to publish accurate reports and fair comments... This is embodied, too, in the maxim that it is not sufficient that justice be done, but it must be seen to be done.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE FRANKEL,
Director, The Campaign for Freedom of Information,
88 Old Street, ECI,
November 2.

From the Editor of The Guardian

Sir, The Supreme Court of Ex-Editors, of course, remains constantly in session: and I thank Lord Justice Rees-Mogg ("Bring the press to heel", November 3) and Lord Justice Johnson ("Paper-thin morality", November 2) for their verdicts. But could this Prince of Turpitude offer a mild word of riposte?

I do not think I am above the law. Journalism is just a lowly, though rather necessary, part of the demo-

cratic body politic. The fax could not deceive Mr Al Fayed because he had asked for it: nor could it deceive the only man who could ask The Ritz for it (and did last May), Jonathan Aiken, because it was designed to lead him straight to *The Guardian*, and away from the innocent hotel. An insurance policy for a doubling source.

Stupid? Perhaps. Necessary? Certainly. Confusing to fulminating commentators? Alas, indubitably.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PRESTON,
Editor,
The Guardian,
119 Farringdon Road, ECI,
November 3.

From the Chairman of the Scott Trust

Sir, William Rees-Mogg, deploring the conduct of the editor of *The Guardian*, seems to be astonished that the owners of the paper, the Scott Trust, have defended him by means of silence. His article suggests it is the task of owners to bring editors to heel when they transgress the standards that Lord Rees-Mogg, and maybe some others, believe have been violated.

This philosophy is to be pitied, albeit understood, coming from a journalist who has long experience of working on an owner-dominated newspaper. The purpose laid down for the Scott Trust more than half-a-century ago was to protect the freedom of the editor to appoint to conduct the business of the paper, in company with its management, as he sees fit.

This has stood the test of time. *The Guardian* is produced in a context uniquely free from interference, with ever-increasing success. It has also had only two editors in the last 38 years.

Yours sincerely,
HUGO YOUNG, Chairman,
The Scott Trust,
119 Farringdon Road, ECI,
November 3.

From the Chairman of the Parliamentary Press Gallery

Sir, Media interest in the register of members' interests prompted Roger Gale, MP, chairman of the Conservative Media Committee, to challenge me on October 25 to publish the financial interests of members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. Could I set the record straight?

Journalists who represent one organisation in the gallery but freelance for another are required to register that fact on the register of journalists' interests which is administered by the same registrar who administers the members' register and is open to inspection by MPs.

Such freelancing is necessary. Shortage of desk space as well as money prohibits some media outlets,

such as specialist magazines, from having their own press gallery representation.

Members of the Lobby are also governed by Lobby Practice, rule six of which states:

It is an abuse of Lobby Membership and incompatible with that Membership if Members pass information gained through Lobby facilities, and not available elsewhere, to interests outside journalism. In no circumstances should advance copies of documents, or information in them, be provided to such outside interests. Any breach may be followed by a recommendation to the Sergeant at Arms that Lobby facilities be withdrawn from the Member concerned.

I proposed the rule as the then chairman of the Lobby in 1982 to repel the predatory lobbyist and preserve the gallery for its only purpose, which is the reporting of Parliament. Since it was accepted by the Lobby in a ballot in April 1982, rule six has never had to be invoked.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ROSE,
Chairman,
Parliamentary Press Gallery,
House of Commons,
November 1.

From Sir Charles Gordon

Sir, In his article yesterday your Political Correspondent stated (earlier editions) that "although the [Committee of Privileges] has the power to imprison, the sanction has not been used for 162 years". In fact, the committee has no such power: this resides solely with the House, which takes any decision on the basis of the committee's reported evidence and recommendations, with which it may or may not agree.

While no analogy is ever exact, there is some resemblance between this and the process of criminal law. In the case of the latter, preliminary investigation is undertaken by the police in private (though nowadays, I understand, with interviews normally recorded — as is all evidence taken before select committees of the House) and if a prosecution arises, the proceedings of the court are public.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES GORDON (Clerk to the House of Commons, 1979-83),
279 Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13,
November 3.

From Mr J. K. Morland

Sir, In view of recent events should not the famous dictum of the late great C. P. Scott of the (then) *Manchester Guardian* be rephrased to read "Comment is free and facts are not sacred"?

Yours faithfully,
J. K. MORLAND,
New House, Capel Leys,
South Holmwood,
Dorking, Surrey,
November 2.

Relations with France

From Mr Alistair Horne

Sir, As a one-time student of the First World War Alan Clark should surely know better than, among a number of historical errors, to accuse the French army of "barely firing a shot" after the mutinies of 1917 (article, November 1; letters, November 3).

One may argue that it was poorly led, or even that Britain should have had no part on the Western Front, but his accusation is a terrible insult to the heroism of the French *Poilus* of 1914-18. From August 1914 until the Kitcheners began to arrive in 1916, France bore the brunt of the fighting on the Western Front. By the end of 1915 she had lost 50 per cent of her regular officers, and almost as many men as Britain did in the entire war.

In 1916 the terrible blood-letting of Verdun (in which no British troops fought) brought the French to mutiny in 1917. Nevertheless, in the summer of 1918, while Haig's armies were still recovering from the devastating Ludendorff offensive, and the Americans had not yet arrived in force, it was General Mangin's reconstituted French forces that initiated, in the second battle of the Marne, the great series of Allied attacks which led to the final German surrender.

Yours sincerely,
ALISTAIR HORNE,
The Old Vicarage, Turville,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Romanian links

From the Director-General of the British Council

Sir, Sir Rowland Whitehead (letter, November 3) is right to detect the "roots of an entrepreneurial culture" in Romania. The British Council is helping that process in a number of ways. I will cite two examples.

Romania has experienced high levels of unemployment as it moves to a market economy. Over the past two years, the Council has worked closely with the Romanian Ministry of Labour to help tackle this problem in a project funded by the World Bank and the British Government's Know-How Fund. Using UK expertise the project has helped Romania establish employment offices, management information systems and a small business advisory and training centre.

Under the Know-How Fund, the Council has also brought a number of young Romanian managers to Britain for practical training secondments to British companies which are leading to joint ventures between British and Romanian companies. British businesses are thus able to open up new markets in areas where previously it would have been difficult to make the right contacts.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HANSON, Director-General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1,
November 3.

Copyright issues

From Mr Richard F. Shepherd

Sir, Your correspondents Peter Parry (October 21) and John Rees (October 29) are expressing a common frustration at HMSO's copyright rules, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Acts and Statutory Instruments are Crown copyright documents and the Crown has the same rights as any other copyright holder in that permission is required for reproduction in any form. But following the coming into force of the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988, a new category of parliamentary copyright was introduced.

Far from prohibiting photocopying of Acts and SIs, the Crown now allows individuals to copy such documents in their entirety free of charge after six months from their publication, and up to 30 per cent before the six months have elapsed. I have no doubt that these very welcome waivers will in time go further to include the transmission of copies from databases.

The Statute Law Database is being developed by the Statutory Publica-

tions Office of the Lord Chancellor's Department precisely to provide updated copies of all statutes in force. When completed the database will be widely available, perhaps via the Government Telecommunication Network to Internet.

As I understand it, the database provides the amended text of all Acts and regulations, etc., and in this way should provide a wholly current version of the text of each instrument. It is envisaged providing on-line access to public libraries.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHEPHERD (Director),
Western Research Associates
(Computing consultants),
Whalecwm House,
Cosherton, Pembroke, Dyfed.

From Mr David Lewis

Sir, Let anyone should think cynically that the reason for introducing the new Trade Marks Act (report, November 1) was that the previous, 1938, Act was no longer "in copyright", they should have recourse to a Treasury circular dated January 9, 1938.

There it is accepted that it is in the

public interest that Acts and reports of Parliament should be diffused as widely as possible, and it is stated that legal rights in the material will not normally be enforced.

There might also be a case for disseminating reports of judicial proceedings interpreting the Acts as widely and as rapidly as possible by such means.

The Trademark Law Treaty concluded last week in Geneva had as one of its aims the removal of seemingly disproportionate national requirements in the formalities involved in trade mark protection. Since international and European legislatures and courts do not appear to consider that copyright subsists in their material, perhaps there is scope for a similar treaty enabling laws and court decisions to be published freely.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LEWIS
(Chairman, Standing Advisory Committee on Industrial Property),
The Lodge, Badminton Court,
Church Street,
Amersham, Buckinghamshire,
October 31.

Deserving causes for lottery funds

From Sir Robin Day

Sir, As one who for many years was a solitary advocate of a National Lottery, may I express the hope that the Government will streamline and simplify the system for deciding which good causes are good enough to be given lottery money?

On November 25, 1967, *The Times* published a letter from me suggesting a National Lottery to raise funds for the (then unbuilt) National Theatre. A lottery, I argued, could also raise massive funds for a variety of other cultural and social projects. The idea was to bridge the gap between public funds and private philanthropy in those areas of national life where more expenditure was desirable.

In 1978 these arguments were accepted by Lord Rothschild's Royal Commission on Gambling. Rothschild recommended "a single National Lottery for good causes". In the 1970s and 1980s I repeatedly lobbied Cabinet ministers of both parties. Nothing happened until 1992, when the present Prime Minister and the then Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, to their great credit, boldly broke free from the long-standing, hidebound prejudice against a lottery.

Now, at last, the National Lottery is about to begin. The potential benefits are tremendous. The nation's gambling urge will be harnessed for widespread social benefit. The prize-winning draws will give huge mass entertainment.

But what a fiasco there will be if the system for distributing funds to deserving causes is cumbersome and bureaucratic, with too many committees and quangos. And as to the Millennium Fund, whatever that is for, the millennium commissioners should hurry by because the year 2000 will be here sooner than they think.

The lottery was created to help good causes, to enrich the quality of life. This must be done with boldness, imagination and speed. Otherwise a great and popular enterprise could go off at half-cock.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DAY,
Garrick Club, Garrick Street, WC2,
November 3.

CPS reform

From Mr Christopher Frazer

Sir, Neil Addison (Law, November 1) is right to canvass reform of the Crown Prosecution Service but wrong to claim that privatisation would hurt the independent Bar.

Let us abolish the entire CPS and start again: franchise selected high street solicitors in local court centres to review police investigations and prepare cases for prosecution — a task which they would perform with considerably more professional skill, competence and sensitivity than the notorious CPS. These solicitors would then brief those barristers whom they knew would do a good and fair job to conduct the actual Crown court trials.

This is one privatisation which would not fail to deliver a better service to the public than the present discredited State-run scheme.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRAZER,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4,
November 2.

Ozone losses

From Mr J. D. Shanklin

Sir, In an interview with the vulcanologist Dr Harcourt Tazieff (Mind and Matter, October 10), it was stated that the ozone hole had been discovered by Professor G. M. B. Dobson in 1957 and that the ozone distribution had not changed since then.

What Dobson discovered in 1957 was that the atmospheric circulation in the northern and southern hemispheres is very different, with comparatively lower values of ozone seen in the southern spring. The ozone level has continually gone down since the mid-1970s.

It is important that the parties to the Montreal Protocol continue in their efforts to reduce chlorine emissions in order to prevent further ozone losses. We should see the ozone hole as a warning that it is very easy to change our atmosphere and we should take similar steps to limit the release of gases that contribute to greenhouse warming.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SHANKLIN,
British Antarctic Survey,
High Cross,
Madingley Road, Cambridge,
October 25.

Hubble trouble

From Mr Steven Dunkey

Sir, Perhaps the paradox confronting cosmologists ("Hubble sees universe only half as old as its stars", October 27) is not, as perceived, a "logical impossibility" but rather an "illogical possibility".

Yours sincerely,
S. DUNKEY,
14 Glamis Drive,
Stone, Staffordshire,
October 27.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

education at Wisbech Grammar School. He then took his degree at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, before going to the Cambridge School of Agriculture. He was a former chairman of the Wisbech branch of the National Farmers Union.

Bullard continued to play a part in the life of East Anglia. His activities included membership of the Anglian Water Authority in 1974, eventually serving as its chairman.

He was married in 1970 to Diana Patricia Cox, and she and their son and daughter survive him.

unintentionally scuppering the romance between son and girlfriend, Beth Devonport. In fact Beery, despite his grey hair, was only 12 years Garner's senior, with the result that the relationship on screen between father and son appeared exceptionally bantering and playful.

Noah Beery was born into the Hollywood equivalent of an acting dynasty, being the nephew of Wallace Beery, and the son of Noah Beery Sr, one of early Hollywood's favourite villains, with a voice, it was said, "as deep as the Atlantic Ocean".

easygoing, acting style, he prospered as supporting roles, particularly in westerns, as the faithful, philosophical sidekick to such actors as Tom Mix, Johnny Mack Brown and Buck Jones. The latter's daughter Maxine became Beery's first wife in 1940.

Beery's films, which were numerous, included *Only Angels Have Wings* (1939) with Cary Grant and Rita Hayworth; *Of Mice And Men* (1939), the Hal Roach adaptation of Steinbeck's novel; *Inherit the Wind* (1960), the fictionalised account of the Scopes "monkey trial" of 1925;

Mickey Daniels (London Evening Standard) London, 1960s and, from 1974 to 1980, the six series of *The Rockford Files*.

James Garner eventually called a halt to the series in 1980 after a number of torn ligaments, sprains and dislocations brought him to a standstill, and left him, like doctor joked, with great legs "for a man of 85". A few years later, after a stroke, Beery retired to his cattle ranch near Los Angeles.

He leaves his second wife two daughters and a son.

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One of the jurors replied, "Yes, my Lord."

His Lordship then remarked that there were other ladies in Court and they would have gathered that the case was of an extremely unpleasant character. Those who did not wish to remain would be free to leave. "If they feel it their duty to remain," added his Lordship, "they will do so without my disapproval."

Two of the three women in Court then left, but one remained.

The plaintiff in the action was William Nelson, Kennington-road, London, and the defendant was James Moir, of Loughborough-road, Brixton, who was stated to be a very well-known heavy-weight boxer.

His Lordship complained of was an alleged statement by the defendant that the plaintiff had committed an act of indecency with the defendant's son, James Charles Albert Moir. The defendant denied that the words complained of were spoken, and contended that whatever he said was privileged. The defendant put in a counterclaim for damages.

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The plaintiff in the action was William Nelson, Kennington



ARTS 33-36

Who's afraid of the theatre critics?
Not Edward Albee



INFOTECH 37-39

Will call-identity see off the telephone pests?



SPORT 41-48

Luton clear way for Pleat to rejoin Tottenham

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SELL-OFF FLOP
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4 1994

Treasury's Wise Men oppose immediate rise in rates

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury's panel of independent forecasters are unanimously opposed to any immediate further rise in interest rates, arguing that the Government should wait to see how the economy responds to the 1/2-point increase in September.

Agreement between the Six Wise Men, who have been at odds over interest rate policy, sends a strong signal to the Government.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor,

and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, met on Wednesday to discuss interest rates but there was no signal of higher rates from the Bank yesterday. The financial markets remain on interest-rate watch, however, because September's increase was not announced until the Monday after the Wednesday monetary meeting.

Only three out of the six-man panel supported September's rate rise. Professor Tim Congdon argued that September's move was premature, while Professors Pat-

rick Minford and Wynne Godley said that they did not think that "any tightening of policy was warranted by demand conditions of inflationary prospects".

Professors Minford and Godley remain opposed to further monetary tightening in the near future and say that any tightening of fiscal policy in the Budget should be accompanied by lower interest rates. In contrast, three other panel members believe that further rate rises will be needed in due course to restrain inflation. Four of the six

predicted that short-term interest rates will rise to between 7 and 7.5 per cent by the end of next year.

One of the reasons why the panel argued for interest rates to remain on hold for now was that monetary policy should take into account the Budget, on November 29. All six broadly agreed that a neutral Budget was needed, allowing announced tax rises to take effect as planned. All agreed that they would like cash spending plans to be cut to reflect the effect of lower inflation.

They argued that the Govern-

ment should introduce policy reforms to tackle unemployment in the Budget. All six favoured policy changes to reduce the effective cost of employing people on low wages, with some advocating that the lowest paid could be taken out of the tax and National Insurance system completely.

The wise men were uniformly more optimistic on growth this year than the Treasury's forecast of 2.75 per cent. They all forecast growth of 3.5 to 3.6 per cent. But they differ widely on growth in 1995, with the

range of forecasts running from as low as 2.5 per cent and as high as 3.7 per cent.

There was a range of forecasts for underlying inflation, but all were within the Government's 1 to 4 per cent target range. Predictions for the fourth quarter this year ranged from 1.9 to 2.3 per cent, forecasts for the end of 1995 varied from 1.9 to 3.9 per cent.

Long-term jobs, page 26
Pennington, page 27
Stock market, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3194.4	(+23.1)
Yield	4.10%	
FT-SE All Share	1540.02	(+9.10)
Nickel	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	3850.59	(+13.46)
S&P Composite	468.27	(+1.78)

US RATE

Federal Funds	4.11%	(4.1%)
Long Bond	9.2%	(9.2%)
Yield	8.10%	(8.10%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6.1%	(6.1%)
Life long gilt	100%	(100%)
Future (Dec)		

STERLING

New York:		
\$	1.6125*	(1.6230)
London:		
\$	1.6125	(1.6351)
DM	2.4867	(2.4561)
FF	8.4285	(8.4215)
Sfr	2.0638	(2.0488)
Yen	158.29	(158.35)
£ Index	80.9	(81.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5236*	(1.5154)
FF	5.2240*	(5.1955)
Sfr	1.2739*	(1.2635)
Yen	96.16*	(97.65)
\$ Index	61.4	(60.6)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day Jan	\$17.10	(\$17.15)
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GOLD

London close	\$383.75	(\$383.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

Rowland to quit board of Lonrho

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

TINY Rowland, one of Britain's most controversial tycoons, has lost his long-running power play with Dieter Bock, the German financier, and has been forced to resign from the board of Lonrho, the conglomerate he has presided over for 34 years.

A brief statement after yesterday's board meeting — postponed from 10.30am to 3.30pm — revealed that Mr Rowland had decided to resign as joint managing director and chief executive of the company at the end of the year. Mr Rowland has expressed his willingness to serve as a director until Lonrho's annual meeting next March, when he will retire from the board. He will continue to receive his salary, expenses and benefits until the end next year.

The statement read: "In acknowledging Mr Rowland's decision and his exceptional contribution to the company over 34 years, the board expressed the hope that he would continue to make his experience available to Lonrho, particularly in Africa."

Mr Rowland, 76, has been invited to become Lonrho's president after his retirement as a director and a resolution to this effect will be put at the annual meeting.

The arrangements under which Mr Bock, Lonrho's largest shareholder, with an 18.8 per cent stake, could take up Mr Rowland's remaining 6.2 per cent stake in Lonrho, via put and call options, by the end next year, have been cancelled. Mr Bock will now have the right of first refusal

on Mr Rowland's shares, but only until Mr Rowland's resignation from the board becomes effective.

News of Mr Rowland's exit from Lonrho follows a week of intense behind-the-scenes activity. Sir John Leahy, acting chairman of Lonrho after the retirement of Rene Leclercq, a strong supporter of Mr Rowland, is understood to have delivered an effective ultimatum to Mr Rowland earlier this week. According to one source: "There was a hard option and a soft option. What we now have is a settlement."

Sir John's discussions with Mr Rowland are understood to have been at the behest of Mr Bock who, at the last moment, abandoned an attempted coup against Mr Rowland two months ago.

Mr Nick Morrell, a director of Lonrho, refused to elaborate on Lonrho's statement. Asked if he could confirm whether discussions had taken place between Sir John and Mr Rowland last Tuesday, he said he could make no comment.

Yesterday's board meeting was the first to be chaired by Sir John, a former ambassador to South Africa. Sir John emerged as a non-executive director of Lonrho a year ago, at the insistence of Mr Rowland, after Dieter Bock's decision to appoint Peter Harper, a director of Hanson, and Stephen Walls, chairman of Albert Fisher, the food enterprise, as non-executive directors. This was the first appearance of non-executive directors at Lonrho for 20 years.

The arrival of the trio of non-executives — an aspect of Mr Bock's plans to "normalise" Lonrho — saw the balance of power start to slip away from Mr Rowland. Mr Bock systematically pressed for the departure of Mr Rowland's closest boardroom allies in the shape of Sir Peter Yuens, joint deputy chairman Paul Spicer and Robert Dunlop and Mr Leclercq.

In August, a carefully orchestrated campaign heralded press revelations that Mr Rowland cost Lonrho more than £5.5 million a year, taking into account his £1.2 million salary, expenses, his use of the company's jet and other charges.



It's off to work we go: Philippe Bourguignon yesterday with "Doc" and "Bashful"

Euro Disney may cut prices

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EURO Disneyland, the financially battered theme park east of Paris, is not ruling out further price cuts to pull in visitors after another year of disappointing attendances.

Philippe Bourguignon, the chairman, said the company had found that the public perception, particularly among the local population, was that the resort was still over-priced in spite of 13 per cent price cuts in hotel charges over the past year.

While the management would not be cutting prices

merely to pull in large numbers of fresh visitors, there was an argument for temporary reductions to correct this misconception, he added.

Euro Disneyland was announcing a 1 million decline in visitors to 8.8 million in the year to September 30 and a 4 per cent fall in all-important spending per visitor. Net losses, excluding all exceptional items, improved to Fr 1.28 billion, from Fr 1.71 billion, because of cost-cutting.

"The best thing about 1994 is that it's over," admitted M

Bourguignon. He added that he hoped the park would at last be breaking even in September 1996.

The lower losses and the prospect of an eventual profit sent the shares ahead by 13p to 96p, although they are still below the 120p at which the company raised fresh funds earlier this year. Some analysts were forecasting that visitor numbers could climb to as high as 12 million by the end of the century.

Pennington, page 27

Abbey National takes stake in Irish Permanent

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABBEY National, the savings bank, yesterday spent £16.5 million on a 9.9 per cent stake in Irish Permanent, the former building society that floated on the Dublin stock market last week.

News of the deal came as it emerged that Abbey is paying £16.2 million more for the Household Mortgage Corporation (HMC) than it first appeared when the acquisition was announced on Tuesday.

Abbey is to bear the cost of all the financial advice fees, legal and accountancy fees, share option schemes and bonuses to HMC's senior managers. This will push the price for HMC to £72.5 million, 13 per cent more than the £63.3 million for the shares and £8 million bonus payments announced earlier.

The extra costs are detailed in a restricted circulation document sent to the 13 institutions that own HMC and the 40 managers that participate in a £3.1 million share option scheme.

Abbey revealed that it would be paying an extra £8 million in bonuses to three directors and five senior managers over the next three years. But it did not tell shareholders that it would also be bearing the cost of the share option scheme, HMC's legal and accountancy fees,

and £2.5 million in fees to Baring Brothers, the merchant bank appointed by HMC in July to find a buyer.

The bonus payments were linked to the timing of the sale and were higher than they would have been if the sale had taken longer. Abbey refused to comment on the document.

Abbey's acquisition of shares in Irish Permanent is the maximum allowed under its flotation rules without having to seek permission from the Central Bank of Ireland. Abbey said that it intended to hold a long-term minority investment in the company.

Roy Douglas, Irish Permanent chief executive, said the news that Abbey had built up a 9.9 per cent stake in such a short time came as a surprise. However, he said Abbey was a suitable long-term holder of its shares. He said that the two had the same ethos because of the similarity in their backgrounds.

John Fry, Abbey's group services director, said: "Looking at the situation in Europe as a whole, we have been keen to expand gently in Europe and our view was that a strategic holding in Irish Permanent would be a good investment in itself."

Tempus, page 28



Rowland: power play lost

Elf sells 10.3% stake in Enterprise Oil

By CARL MORTISHED

ELF Aquitaine, the largest French oil company, has sold a 10.3 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil. The parcel of 50.8 million shares was placed in the market by BZW and Cazenove, the brokers, at 269p per share, a discount to yesterday's 385p price of 16p.

The Enterprise stake formed part of a larger 25 per cent interest originally acquired from Lasmo in the late 1980s. Since its recent privatisation, the management of the French group has been keen to cut borrowings with a target of Fr5 billion of asset sales in 1994 and

1995. Analysts welcomed the share placing, saying that it would remove a stock overhang in the market. Andrew Shilton, the finance director of Enterprise Oil, said that the placing would provide a more solid shareholder base for the company.

"If we wanted to raise capital it helps if you don't have a shareholder who may not want to take up his rights," Mr Shilton said.

He added that the share sale would not affect Elf Enterprise, the joint venture set up by the two companies after Elf's acquisition of the Enterprise shares. Mr Shilton said that the

shareholder agreement between the two companies provided for consultation in the event that Elf chose to sell its interest.

The remaining 12.9 per cent of the French Group's interest in Enterprise is held in Elf Enterprise Finance, part of the joint venture between the two companies. The shares were used to back a convertible bond issue which raised funds to finance the purchase of oil and gas assets from Occidental Petroleum. Enterprise injected part of the Nelson field into the venture in return for a one-third stake.

The sale of the Enterprise shares is

part of a programme of asset sales by Elf. In October it sold Financière Gamma to Banque Nationale de Paris for more than Fr1 billion and sold a 2 per cent stake in Petrofina, the Belgian Oil group, to Groupe Bruxelles Lambert.

Enterprise Oil still retains its 10 per cent stake in Lasmo after the failed bid for the rival oil company last Spring. Mr Shilton said there were no immediate plans to sell the shares, which were acquired at 169p, against yesterday's price of 147p.

Pennington, page 27

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CBI wants more active policies on jobless

By Philip Bassett and Janet Bush

BUSINESS leaders urged employers to adopt a more active approach to cutting long-term unemployment — which, they said, posed a threat to Britain's economic recovery and competitiveness.

Labour and the trade unions welcomed the statement from the Confederation of British Industry, saying it was a "damning indictment" of the Government's labour market policies.

Howard Davies, the CBI's director-general, said that while industry believed the Government's priority was to create stable economic conditions with low inflation as the best way to create income and job growth, that "may not be sufficient in itself to tackle the large pool of long-term unemployed". Additional policies were required to address "this structural deficiency".

Persistently high long-term unemployment had emerged in mature economies, and recent experience had shown that it would not be removed by the natural forces of eco-

nomie recovery. Failing to address the problem of long-term unemployment could impede and threaten the UK's competitiveness, Mr Davies said.

A CBI report setting out a "business agenda" on jobs draws on a survey of member companies and on a specially commissioned poll — the first such by a business organisation — of 450 long-term unemployed people.

The survey showed a mismatch between skills and job vacancies. Many long-term unemployed suffered from literacy and numeracy problems that hampered their attempts to find jobs. There was also a mismatch between employers' and unemployed people's use of government JobCentres.

Forty-five per cent of employers had not recruited anyone directly from long-term unemployment in the past four years, but 38 per cent had. The latter figure was higher than CBI leaders had expected.

The Treasury's panel of six independent forecasters yesterday added their voices to calls for more government action to tackle unemployment. They said the most important precondition for a lasting reduction in unemployment was moderate and balanced growth.

They added that "without policy changes to encourage investment in physical and human capital or to increase the demand for unskilled labour, the more pessimistic among us foresee difficulties in reducing unemployment below around 2 million".

All six said they favoured changes that would reduce the cost to employers of taking on people at low wages. All the members of the panel want improvements in education and training, though Tim Congdon and Patrick Minford believe this should be financed by the private sector.



Sir Peter at Cabot Square yesterday. Morgan Stanley is taking office space there

Canary Wharf plans cost rise

CANARY Wharf is planning to raise the cost of space in key locations at the development in London's Docklands, after successful lettings and the perception that demand for space in the development is rising (see *Canary Wharf*).

to take some 500,000 sq ft in Cabot Square. "If BZW go ahead, it will be the largest single office letting in London," he said. The lease could be signed by the end of the year, he indicated, which would bring the total amount of space let since the administration was lifted a year ago to 1 million sq ft, leaving about a further 1 million sq ft to let. Mark McAlister, partner at Richard Ellis, which is advising

ing Canary Wharf, said that rent-free periods were falling in Docklands. "We may be revising our leasing policy in terms of the whole package offered to tenants."

Sir Peter would not be drawn on the terms of leases, speaking of the talks with Barclays, which owns BZW and is a shareholder, he said. "This is not a sweetheart deal."

New tune, page 29

Euro Court challenge to Hualon subsidy

By Nicholas Watt
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S textile industry will mount a legal challenge in the European Court to a government grant to a Taiwanese group to build a textile plant near Belfast.

The decision by the British Apparel and Textile Confederation comes after Jennifer d'Abo resigned from Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board over its handling of the project.

The textile confederation said it would complain to the court of unfair competition. The Government has agreed to give £61 million towards the £160 million project by Hualon. The challenge will be to September's go-ahead for the grant by the European Commission.

Hualon, which has been rocked by stock market scandals, has signed a contract to build a factory on a greenfield site at Mallusk, Co Antrim. It is claimed that 1,800 jobs would be created.

Simon Ward, a member of the textile confederation, said: "There is overcapacity in the UK textile industry. Therefore, to invest all this money is only going to harm people who are already in work. Our estimates also show that the prediction of 1,800 jobs is way over what will actually be created."

Mrs d'Abo, who chairs the Moyse Stevens florists group, resigned from the development board because she claimed that it had failed to give her satisfactory information about the Hualon deal.

She has questioned the project from the beginning and was concerned when the Taiwanese authorities detained four executives of two Hualon subsidiaries last month. The four were alleged to have been involved in a £60 million scandal, failing to pay for shares.

The development board said yesterday that it had carried out a careful review of the project last week. A spokesman said: "The board stated its continued confidence that the project would bring significant benefits to the Northern Ireland economy."

The project will be raised at the next meeting of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, later this month.

Exchange sets date for 5-day settlements

ATTEMPTS to improve settlement of share deals in the capital took a step forward yesterday as the London Stock Exchange announced that June 26 next year would be the day for the City to move to paying up on share deals in five days. Deals are currently settled in ten days, after the introduction in July of a rolling settlement system and the end of the traditional fortnightly account day. Plans to speed up share settlement took a knock after the spectacular collapse of the Taurus project to fully computerise share dealings. A new system, Crest, is currently being developed.

London has been endeavouring, along with other big financial centres, to improve settlement of share bargains after the market crashes in the late 1980s, when it became apparent that investors were at risk during the lengthy time it took between selling shares and receiving the money. The Group of Thirty think-tank recommends two-day rolling settlement for all big financial centres. Yesterday, the Stock Exchange said that it was "very encouraged by the success" of ten-day rolling settlement.

Call for VSEL referral

JACK Cunningham, the shadow trade secretary, has written to Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director-general of Fair Trading, requesting that the takeover bids for VSEL should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In his letter, Dr Cunningham asked Sir Bryan to consider whether the bids from British Aerospace and GEC are against the public interest because of the possible long-term implications for the defence industry: the risks of a single monopoly supplier of warships, and the possible adverse effects on jobs in the ship-building industry.

KLM profit takes flight

KLM lifted profits sharply in the second quarter to show first-half net profit of 476 million guilders (£175 million), and expects full-year profits in the upper 300 million guilders range. Rob Abrahamson, finance director, said: "The share price jumped nearly 4 per cent to 49.10 guilders after the interim figures, which showed a second-quarter net profit of 354 million guilders, up from 204 million guilders. KLM said it expected further growth, but at a slower rate than in the first half. The Dutch carrier forecast reduced dollar outgoings offsetting the pressure on yields arising from the weak dollar."

MAI 'making progress'

MAI, the broadcasting and financial group that bought Anglia Television, says it is making good progress in the current year. Sir James McKinnon, the chairman, told the annual meeting, however, that volumes in the wholesale financial markets remained below the exceptional levels of last year and the weakness in the dollar was reducing the sterling value of US profits. Sir Michael Lickiss, former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, will join the board as non-executive director today.

Euromoney advances

EUROMONEY Publications, the financial magazine group and conference organiser that is 70 per cent owned by the Daily Mail and General Trust, saw pre-tax profits jump to £24 million in the year to September 30, from £17.7 million the previous time. The total dividend goes up to 42.5p, from 38p, on earnings per share of 69.38p (£5.84p). The biggest gains came from conferences, seminars and training businesses. Euromoney invested £9.6 million on stakes in six companies and spent £11.7 million on raising existing holdings.

Report criticises banks

BRITAIN'S banks may be repeating mistakes made during the last recovery from recession, says a report by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. Sir Kit McMahon, former chairman of Midland Bank and one of the report's authors, said there were some serious failures of judgment by top management. Philippa Foster Back, group treasurer of Thorn EMI, another contributor, said: "... margins are definitely falling: good news for the corporate treasurer in the short term, but the niggles persist that maybe tomorrow's problems are beginning to stack up."

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Denmark Kr	10.23	9.43
Finland Mk	8.18	7.48
France Fr	8.31	8.21
Germany Dr	2.91	2.39
Greece Dr	394.00	389.00
Hong Kong \$	13.18	12.18
Ireland Ir£	1.05	0.96
Italy Lira	2615.00	2460.00
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Malta £	0.610	0.553
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Norway Kr	11.31	10.51
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Treasurers call banks to account

By Patricia Teahan, Banking Correspondent

TREASURERS of the UK's biggest companies fear that banks are not properly explaining the risks of using derivatives or the controls needed to monitor their use.

A survey by Record Treasury Management, the currency risk consultancy firm, shows that treasurers believe "that derivative risk is generally inadequately explained by the sellers of such instruments".

The firm sent out questionnaires to treasurers at 220 of the UK's top companies and received 90 responses last month. More than half of those said that the risks were not properly explained. Most revealed that their companies kept a very tight control of derivative usage, with the amount of control increasing with the size of the deal.

Of those who responded, 81 per cent noted that they required board level approval for transactions up to £50 million in size, with another 7 per cent needing approval from directors for deals worth more than £100 million.

Between 10 per cent and 50

per cent of treasury resources were allocated to derivative activity, according to 20 per cent of treasurers.

The survey also showed that corporate treasurers rank low inflation as the number one objective of the Government's policy.

They believe inflation in the UK is under control in the short-term, but were sceptical about its long-term behaviour, with only 16 per cent saying it was under control in the long-term.

The respondents expected currency markets to remain volatile for the foreseeable future, with 95 per cent saying there will be no decline in volatility and 49 per cent expecting volatility to increase.

The vast majority believed that interest rates in both the UK and US would be raised in the next 12 months. Only 4 per cent expect UK interest rates to fall.

Nearly half the respondents believed prospects for economic growth would remain the same under a Labour government, and 20 per cent said prospects would improve.

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□ Wise men test the Chancellor's patience □ Magic kingdom fails to conjure up subjects □ Elf unwinds its Enterprise

Six go off at a tangent

THE six wise men seem to be doing their best to sign their own death warrants. Set up purely as an independent forecasting mechanism, they yesterday pushed well beyond the limits of their brief by offering policy prescriptions to tackle unemployment.

Far more galling to the Chancellor, who will shortly decide whether to extend the wise men's original two-year contract, was that their thoughts on unemployment read like a passage from the left-leaning Commission on Social Justice. The coincidence of view was eagerly pounced on by a clearly delighted Labour Party.

Indeed, yesterday's report suggests there is a small band of endogenous growth theorists at the very heart of government policy-making. Like the Labour Party's Gordon Brown, a significant caucus of the wise men believe that unemployment cannot be tackled by the free market alone.

They agree with the Government in saying that the main requirement for a lasting reduction in unemployment is a period of moderate and balanced growth of demand. But they also say that "without policy changes to encourage investment in physical and human capital or to increase the demand for unskilled labour, the more pessimistic among us forecast

difficulties in reducing unemployment below around two million."

Endogenous growth theorists also subscribe to this two-pronged approach, with a particular emphasis on active government policy to encourage industrial investment in plant and machinery and investment in training.

There are inevitably some differences in view between the wise men who represent the extremes of economic ideology as well as the middle ground. Monetarists Tim Congdon and Patrick Minford want higher educational standards but oppose public sector money to bring these about.

There is also remarkable agreement. All six favour changes that would reduce the cost to employers of taking on people on low wages. Policy options include a negative income tax, subsidies to low paid employment and welfare benefits to provide a basic income guarantee. This is squarely in Commission territory.

But there is an even more interesting passage to challenge

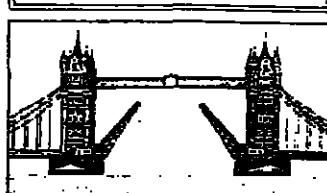
the Government's thinking. The wise men "advocate a further role for macroeconomic policy, in supporting the level of demand at a time when significant microeconomic reforms are undertaken". The argument is, of course, that supply side reforms and periods of structural adjustment are likely to be far more successful when the economy is expanding.

The implication is that the unholy alliance between the Treasury and the Bank of England to keep inflation below 2.5 per cent, at whatever cost to growth in the economy, simply will not do.

Mickey welcomes all comers

VISITORS to Euro Disneyland's Space Mountain attraction, opening in June, can look forward to being shot out of a cannon, suffering an abrupt lurch into near-freefall, a quick flip upside down and then a series of heart-lurching lake crashes into oncoming asteroids.

PENNINGTON



land, of course, have enjoyed all this already. There was little on display from the company yesterday, despite obvious signs of financial improvement, to suggest their ride will get any easier. Euro Disneyland still has two main problems: the number of visitors and the amount they spend. The first, the park reckons, was depressed last year by reports that it could close at the end of March. This will have hardly stimulated forward bookings in the early months of the year. But yesterday's figures make it clear that only half of the one million visitor shortfall came during April to June, the period that could be expected to be the worst affected.

In fact, attendances month by

month in the latest financial year were pretty consistently running below those in the corresponding month, despite an encouraging 20 per cent rate of repeat visits. While a further improvement in attendance rates looks inevitable, not least because of the increased and improved marketing now under way, the task of raising spending per head may prove more intractable.

There were two reasons to be positive about Euro Disneyland yesterday. The fact that the management were keen to court the City at all suggests they now believe, after all the disappointments in recent years, they have a good tale to tell. Furthermore, clearly the refinancing, which will save £1.5 billion a year, and the cost-cutting providing annual savings of £150 million, make the break-even target date of two years hence achievable.

Yet Euro Disneyland let slip yesterday that the first dividend is no nearer. While the 1989 prospectus talked of a payment as soon as the park is profitable, that promise is explicitly not now being repeated. Yesterday's 10 per cent rise for the shares, as

with any price quoted for Euro Disneyland since trading started, still looks impossible to explain on fundamentals.

The right place at the right time

NOBODY at Enterprise Oil wants to hear stories about share stakes, bearing in mind the Lasmo certificates locked up in the finance director's safe. With Lasmo shares trading some 20p adrift of the price at which Enterprise snapped them up last June in its ill-fated bid, the certificates are likely to gather dust for some time yet.

The share placing by Elf, however, was good news for a company that sorely needs it. The future of the French company's 10 per cent stake in Enterprise has been in doubt for some time, particularly with the arrival on the scene of Elf's new boss, the cost-cutting Philippe Jaffre.

Placing the shares with institutions removes the overhang but, more importantly, restores credibility in Enterprise. One of the likely reasons that a cash

offer was never made for Lasmo last summer was the problem facing Warburg in placing 22 per cent of the underwriting with new investors. In addition to the 10 per cent placed yesterday, a further 12 per cent is locked away in the Elf Enterprise joint venture to support its convertible bonds. Reducing the amount of dead weight in the shareholder register brings forward the day the company will be able to look to shareholders for funds.

None of this, however, improves the picture at Elf Enterprise, which is still suffering from the high cost of acquiring the Occidental assets and the related costs of rebuilding Piper Alpha. No doubt Enterprise would like to exit the joint venture but no deal appears to be in sight.

Song of Rowland

IN FEBRUARY last year, Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock, joint chief executives of Lorrho, sitting together in the same room, told *The Times* that Mr Rowland had promised Mr Bock to stay on for three years. Mr Rowland also said that the two would work "happily, smoothly and indivisibly together". The latter always seemed unlikely. The former may yet come true, but only in the shape of Mr Rowland as president of Lorrho.

Boots hints at extra payout after deal on pharmaceuticals

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE Boots Company is close to resolving the future of its pharmaceutical business and hinted that it might pay a special dividend to shareholders following any deal.

Sir James Blyth, chief executive, declined to give details of the group's plans for the pharmaceutical business, whose future has been under review for more than a year, but said that the group was closer to a solution. This could include a full or partial sale of the operations of its joint venture, Zeneca and Medeva, as possible bidders.

Sir James said he had "no

hang-ups" about returning money to shareholders, adding that the group would be highly cash generative regardless of whether it sold its pharmaceutical business or not. "If we can't see ways of deploying that cash in the business, we will examine ways of getting that cash back to shareholders," he said.

The group unveiled a 66 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £299.7 million in the six months to September 30. Excluding an exceptional profit of £47.8 million from the sale of the Farley business this year, profits rose 20 per cent.

The Boots The Chemists

chain continued to forge ahead with profits up 9 per cent and like for like sales rising 4 per cent against the background of a sluggish market. Health and beauty products were the strongest performers, while gifts and photo sales slipped. Sir James said the chain had proved it could compete against supermarkets, which are increasingly moving into Boots' traditional product territory. Gross margins were flat owing to a decline in the margin on NHS dispensing business coupled with increased product development in beauty and personal care.

The picture at the group's remaining retail operations was mixed. Halfords increased profits while Childrens World and AG Stanley made losses. Do It All, the DIY joint venture with WH Smith, made progress with reduced losses. Sir James said new formats at Do It All were delivering good rises in like for like sales, but added that the store disposal programme was taking longer than hoped — 22 stores have been sold so far out of its target of 60.

Boots Healthcare International, the OTC drug business, maintained profits in spite of the disposal of Farley. Sir James said the company was keen to make acquisitions of OTC businesses, particularly in Germany, but was not prepared to pay the high multiples now rife in the industry. Sir James said he remained cautious about consumer confidence and believes retailers face a tough and competitive Christmas trading period. The interim dividend is lifted by 9 per cent to 5.35p (4.9p) and will be paid to shareholders on February 3.

Tempus, page 28



Boots profits soar. Sir Michael Angus, chairman, right, and Sir James Blyth

Philips surges to £193m in third quarter

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN EINDHOVEN

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, surprised analysts yesterday with a higher-than-expected surge in net third-quarter earnings. But the company immediately tempered the euphoria by forecasting slower growth in the final three months.

Net earnings rose to 530 million guilders (£192.7 million) in the third quarter from 133 million guilders a year earlier, partly boosted by a 75 million guilders extraordinary gain on the sale of part of Philips' stake in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing.

Dudley Eustace, vice-president, said he was not pessimistic about prospects in the fourth quarter but added the comparable 1993 period had seen the company move into recovery with strong growth after several troubled years.

The third-quarter profit surge reflected growth in all markets outside Europe, in particular Asia, Brazil and the U.S. European sales remain flat, with key German subsidiaries still making a loss. The company also suffered from a weak dollar, which is expected to undermine results in the final three months.

Mr Eustace said higher non-European margins and

sales volumes combined with lower financing costs and the sale of loss-making businesses to offset an overall price pressure of 2 per cent.

Philips has accepted that price erosion of about 2 per cent will be "ever present." As an antidote, it will seek to expand business in regions with better sales volumes and margins. "We will battle to increase market share moving to wherever growth is to be had and we will continue to fight price declines," said Mr Eustace, a former British Aerospace executive. The Far East now accounts for 15 per cent of sales volume and Mr Eustace said European share could fall below 50 per cent as the company beefs up investments in Asia and Brazil.

Philips said sales of new products, the digital compact cassette and compact disc interactive, were on course and demand was improving, but they are not expected to make a significant contribution in the short term.

There is again no interim dividend, Mr Eustace said. "Shareholders are more interested in the capital growth. We've gone through the restructuring and are now in the revitalisation phase."

Sage buys French software group

By RODNEY HOBSON

A SECOND sally into France has been made by Sage, the computer group. It is paying £18.5 million for Saari, which, like Sage, distributes accounting software. Sage owns CIEL, of Paris, so has experience of the French software market.

Saari made only £19 million operating profit on sales of £29.1 million in the year to last December. David Goldman, Sage chairman, said: "Saari has 90 people in administration and finance while we have only 25. Its sales staff is 110. We have 12. It spends 27 per cent of revenue on R&D while we spend 5 per cent. We have set a 24-year target to get the full benefit of the acquisition."

Although Sage has £4 mil-

lion in cash and its businesses are cash-generative, it has arranged a £20 million loan to fund the acquisition. Mr Goldman said that while this would ensure enough cash was available for a further small acquisition, he did not foresee another big move until Saari was digested.

Mr Goldman said Sage made pre-tax profits of £14.3 million in the year to September 30, against £9.7 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings per share rose from 32.5p to 45.4p. Figures were helped by a recovery in the US, where profits rose from £200,000 to £2.3 million. The final dividend of 7.25p makes 10.91p, up 10 per cent from 9.92p. The shares rose 47p to 652p.

Santa Fe derails \$3.8bn bid from Union Pacific

AMERICA'S battle of the railroads rattled on yesterday after the board of Santa Fe Pacific Corporation dismissed an improved, \$3.8 billion, bid by Union Pacific. Executives promised to continue their merger plans with Burlington Northern, which has offered \$3.2 billion (Sean Mac Carthaigh writes).

At stake are Santa Fe's 12,000 miles of track, covering much of the south and west of

the United States; whichever company wins will own the biggest railroad in the country. The board of Santa Fe last month rejected Union Pacific's initial offer of \$3.4 billion, saying it was merely designed as a spoiler. Turning down the sweetened bid, the board said it was convinced that a Santa Fe-Union Pacific merger would never receive approval from US federal anti-monopolies regulators.

Call for full Renault sale after rush for shares

By COLIN NAREBROUGH
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

LOUIS Schweitzer, the Renault chairman, encouraged by institutional investors' strong interest in the state-controlled automotive group's initial share offering, yesterday increased the pressure for early, full privatisation.

The institutional portion of the offering, which opened yesterday and closes next Thursday, is already ten times oversubscribed. The offer price of £176 per share for institutional investors and £165 for individual investors, values the company at nearly £40 billion.

Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, seeking to avoid the charge, ahead of next year's presidential elections, that it is selling off the "family silver", opted for partial privatisation, which will reduce the State's stake from 79.2 per cent to 50.1 per cent.

A minimum of 37 million shares are earmarked for the



Schweitzer: pressure

public and at least 27.7 million reserved for institutional investors. Six million shares are reserved for Renault employees, who will pay 20 per cent less per share than other investors. Core shareholders, intended to provide long-term stability and French control, have a claim on 12 million shares. Edmond Alphandery, the Economics Minister, has

identified Elf Aquitaine, Lagardère, Rhône-Poulenc and Banque Nationale de Paris, as core shareholders.

Volvo, the Swedish car and truck group forced to abort its merger with Renault last year, is selling an 8 per cent stake, the bulk of its cross-holding.

M Schweitzer, who has taken a back seat over privatisation because of the political sensitivity of the issue, said he now saw no obstacle to full privatisation.

"The privatisation seems natural because there is a consensus of opinion saying that it is not the state's job to produce cars or trucks," he said. M Balladur has said no further tranches would be sold until Renault had secured its future through partnership with other players in the automotive sector. M Schweitzer, however, said it was unlikely that Renault would again attempt a link like its failed merger with Volvo.

Tempus, page 28



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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

Shares take heart from forecasts of Wise Men

SHARES in London staged a healthy recovery after a few pockets of activity re-emerged, while sentiment was also bolstered as the dollar strengthened after further intervention by the Federal Reserve.

Sentiment in London was underpinned by a warmer view on the economy from the Wise Men, the treasury's six independent forecasters, in their quarterly report. The economic advisers to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said the UK economy is expected to grow at a healthy rate in the coming year, albeit with a possible slowdown due to tightening fiscal and monetary policy. They saw no reason for an immediate rise in interest rates, and maintained that the fiscal stance should be kept neutral in the Budget.

A positive start on Wall Street helped to inspire London, prompting a late rally. The FT-SE 100 broke through the 3,000 level and ended near its best levels, closing up 23.1 to 3,014.4. Volume was inflated by a number of one-off events, reaching a relatively healthy 683 million shares traded, including the decision by Elf Aquitaine, the French state-owned oil company, to sell a 10.3 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil. Brokers BZW and Cazenove are understood to have placed 50.78 million Enterprise Oil shares on behalf of Elf with a range of institutions, at a price of 369p per share.

The placing raised about £184.5 million and leaves Elf Enterprise Finance, a joint venture company, with a stake of about 12.9 per cent. Enterprise shares eased 1p to 385p, on heavy turnover of 128.2 million shares traded.

There were gains for dollar-earning internationalists as the currency found some support. Siebe added 7p to 54p, ICI 7p to 781p, Grand Metropolitan 2p to 415p and Unilever 7p to £11.36p.

Boots reported a 20.4 per cent advance in underlying interim pre-tax profits to £241.8 million, but the shares fell to 50p, before partly recovering to close 10p lower at 519p, on volume of 7.83 million, after the company told analysts that trading in the high street remains difficult, while concerns also remain about flat margins at the Boots the Chemist chain.

Kwik Save Group received



Pharmaceuticals firmed on better news from the US

a positive response for the market and saw its shares jump 15p to 551p after the discount retailer accompanied a better-than-expected 7.5 per cent rise in annual profits with plans to buy the supermarket business of Shoprite for £45.4 million. Shoprite eased 1p to 21p, while Shoprite preference shares surged 37p to 65p on redemption hopes.

Alvis rose 5p to 415p after Panmure Gordon issued a buy note and after market whispers that GKN, up 6p to 606p, may wish to make a bid. Alvis has an armoured vehicle unit that could make a good fit. Panmure values Alvis at 70p a share, assuming it wins an Indonesian tank contract, and at 108p a share on break-up.

Euro Disney reported further losses and a decline in attendances, but shares in the Paris theme park group rallied 13p to 96p on the hope that it may now be over the worst. Analysts, however, remained cautious.

A big block of 10.5 million shares in Northern Foods went through the market in late trading, at a price of 195p a share, prompting specula-

tion among dealers on the likely identity of the mystery buyer and seller. Northern Foods shares fell 1p to 199p, on volume of 21.8 million shares.

Pearson climbed 5p to 644p after positive noises from brokers following an upbeat City presentation.

BP gained 6p to 429p, on volume of 9.87 million shares, bolstered after Kleinwort Ben-

son raised its profit forecasts for the oil giant. Kleinwort has lifted its estimate from £1.4 billion to £1.48 billion for the current year, with next year's forecast increased from £1.58 billion to £1.61 billion. Kleinwort, whose forecasts are based on an oil price of \$16/bbl and a sterling/dollar exchange rate of \$1.60, has higher expectations for BP's US refining side and is also

upgrading chemicals. Pharmaceuticals staged a healthy recovery, boosted by a stronger dollar and demand from American investors. Wellcome was among the best performers, advancing 16p to 646p, supported by reports that Retrovir, the anti-Aids drug, can help stop mother to infant HIV transmission. Glaxo climbed 11p to 608p, Fisons 3p to 177p, Medeva 3p to 177p, SmithKline Beecham 4p to 410p and Zeneca 10p to 866p.

Sage Group surged 51p to 656p on news the company had bought Saari, a French software house, for £19 million, funded by a £20 million five-year unsecured loan facility. Sage said the acquisition would make a contribution straight off.

Seion Healthcare retreated 18p to 343p after news that the acquisitive medical products group is spending £24.6 million on a string of over-the-counter brands, funded by a £25.5 million rights issue, on a one-for-three basis at 285p.

MS International dipped 13p to 34p after warning of losses and no interim dividend. Property shares were a dull market after NatWest Securities lowered its net asset value forecast because of static or falling property values. Among recommendations downgraded from hold to reduce are Land Security, down 6p to 620p, Great Portland, off 2p to 189p, and Britdon, 3p lower at 186p. British Land, down 6p at 397p, has been moved from add to hold.

Manchest United declined 13p to 644p after suffering a severe setback in its European Cup hopes following defeat by Barcelona. GILT-EDGED: Government stocks slipped back from overnight levels after Wednesday's short squeeze and unease on world bond markets. However, fading expectations of a near-term rate rise and a sharp bear squeeze in the Bunds prompted a rally.

The December long gilt future added 10 ticks to £100.7/32, on volume of 45,000 contracts traded. Among cash stocks, gains stretched to £4 at the longer end of the market.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was 3,850.59 at midday, up 13.46 points, after renewed talk of dollar support by the Federal Reserve.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3,850.59 (+13.46)
S&P Composite 468.27 (+1.70)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9,991.90 (+40.20)

Amsterdam:
Euronext 410.36 (+4.61)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 3,009.1 (+2.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2,051.49 (+9.13)

Singapore:
Straits Times 2,552.20 (+11.99)

Brussels:
General 712.54 (+21.80)

Paris:
CAC-40 1,911.13 (+37.50)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 648.90 (+5.80)

London:
FT 30 3,014.4 (+23.1)
FT 100 3,014.4 (+23.1)
FT All-Share 1,540.02 (+9.10)
FT Non Financials 1,662.29 (+6.94)
FT Gold Miners 265.5 (+1.1)
FT Food & Drink 107.62 (+0.04)
FT Govt Secs 91.45 (+0.50)
Barratons 1,038.1
SEAG Volume 643.0m
USM (datastream) 155.98 (+0.30)
US\$ 1.6221 (-0.0207)
German Mark 2,457.0 (+0.0015)
Exchange Index 80.9 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
LECU 1.2817
LECU 1.2817
RPI 145.0 Sep (2.2%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

APTA Health Wis 67 ...

Adare Pmtg 180 ...

Artesian Estates 73 ...

BZW Commodities 100 87 +1

BZW Commodities Wts 41 +1

Calluna 90 +3

Churchill China (280) 285 ...

Ennemiex (63) 67 ...

Filtronix Comtek 134 +1

Games Workshop (115) 123 ...

Group Dv Cap Wts 24 -2

Hambros Sml Asian 58 ...

Hambros Smlr As Wts 27 +6

Irish Permanent (180) 217 +6

Man ED & F (180) 169 -1

Proflite Inc 487 +1

Servisair (135) 144 ...

Whitchurch 62 ...

Wrexham Water 338 ...

Wrexham Water NV 320 ...

RIGHTS ISSUES

APTA Healthcare n/p (17) 4 ...

Buller n/p (20) 24 -1

Matthew Clark n/p (500) 22 -6

Novo n/p (26) 15 +1

Sidlaw n/p (180) 15 +1

Union Square n/p (5) 4 ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Lex Service 348p (+10p)

Lard 370p (+15p)

Danka Bus Systems 317p (+19p)

FALLS:

MS International 34p (-13p)

Seton Healthcare 343p (-18p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS Discount shopping

Kwik Save's customers have long known that they are getting a good deal. The group's shareholders may be feeling similarly satisfied after yesterday's acquisition of the Shoprite chain.

Kwik Save is paying £53.1 million for 117 stores and their stock. Tesco effectively paid £300 million for Wm Low's 57 stores as Graeme Bowler, Kwik Save's chief executive, was quick to point out. The comparison is not entirely fair - Wm Low's stores were substantially larger and more profitable than Shoprite's. However, Kwik Save is still paying £45.7 million for properties with a book value of £59.6 million. Moreover, it has avoided taking on the chain's trade creditors, let alone its debts.

The fact that the group has got such a good deal demonstrates how far Shoprite had

sunk. Its fall from grace has been dramatic. The share price peaked at 243p earlier this year, yet the company acknowledged yesterday that without this deal it would have gone under. It expanded too aggressively and overpaid for sites - a fatal mistake for a discount business operating on very low margins. When it hit trouble, it cut prices, only to see them matched by bigger and stronger competitors. As a result, sales slumped. The cash stopped coming, which prevented it from replenishing stock, thereby losing even more sales. And so the downward spiral went on.

Kwik Save has now acquired a lot of new stores, at a reasonably low cost, without adding capacity to an already competitive sector. But the market may be nervous that ghostly black holes could lie in the Shoprite corpse. Until that fear is allayed, the shares may be jittery.

Abbey National

TWO deals in a week from Abbey National could frighten investors that the cautious savings bank has caught the same buying fever that drove rivals to the brink of ruin a decade ago.

Both deals have their faults: it emerges that Abbey is paying rather more for the Household Mortgage Corporation than the headline figure it announced, while the £16.5 million acquisition of a 9.9 per cent stake in Irish Permanent is likely to be dilutive. But both should be seen in terms of the Abbey's size. With net assets of £3.6 billion, a couple of acquisitions worth less than £100 million amount to little more than tinkering around the edges of the group's business portfolio.

The stake in Irish Perma-

Boots

NO news is good news, as the saying goes. Boots has had "no news" on the future of its pharmaceutical operation for some time now. Results announcements have come and gone without any word about what is to happen. But that does not necessarily mean shareholders will cheer when the group finally produces with some kind of deal, even if they do get, as seems almost certain, a special dividend payment.

The difficulty for Boots is that it is trying to sell off all, or at least most, of an ethical pharmaceutical business when such businesses are not in demand. Moreover, Boots' operation is not particularly attractive. Most of its profits are generated by one product, Synthroid, and all its drugs are off-patent. It is hard to envisage a deal that will not dilute earnings. The disposal will probably bring in cash but that is something Boots has no shortage of.

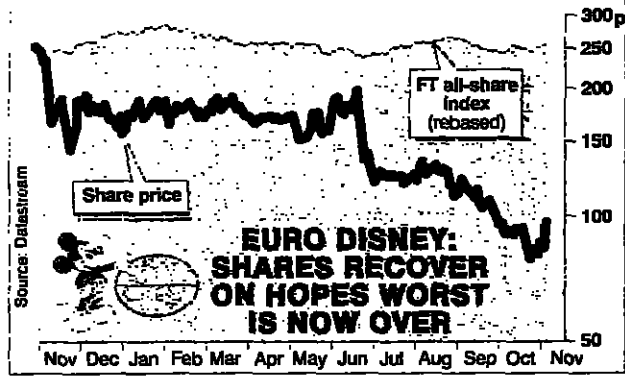
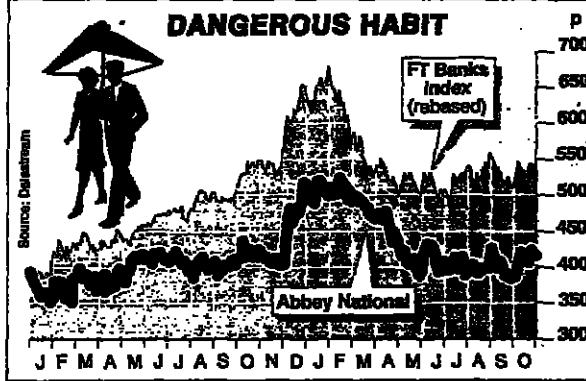
Renault

FOR all the core shareholders and other devices the Balladur regime has imposed for its partial privatisation of Renault to ensure French control, the institutions' appetite for the share at Fr176 has meant that their portion of the stake on offer was already oversubscribed ten times as the offer opened

yesterday. Individual French punters are surely going to find their Fr165 special offer price irresistible. The automotive group, nationalised after the Second World War for collaborating with the Germans during the occupation, has required heavy subsidies in the past, but remained in the black through the recession. Profits are rising sharply with economic recovery.

While the government has repeatedly said it has no plans for full privatisation, reducing its stake from 79 per cent to 50.1 per cent can only be a first step. Louis Schweitzer, the chairman, yesterday appeared to call for a quick next step to full privatisation. Given such oversubscription, in a market where automotive shares are moving sideways or slightly upwards, for their 40 per cent of offer, even Schweitzer's remarks are unlikely to undermine the Renault price.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT



COMMODITIES									
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE									
Dec	94.04	104	104.2	Dec	94.04	104	104.2	Dec	94.04
Mar	94.04	104	104.2	Mar	94.04	104	104.2	Mar	94.04
Jun	94.04	104	104.2	Jun	94.04	104	104.2	Jun	94.04
Sep	94.04	104	104.2	Sep	94.04	104	104.2	Sep	94.04
Dec	104.02	104	104.2	Dec	104.02	104	104.2	Dec	104.02
Mar	104.02	104	104.2	Mar	104.02	104	104.2	Mar	104.02
Jun	104.02	104	104.2	Jun	104.02	104	104.2	Jun	104.02
Sep	104.02	104	104.2	Sep	104.02	104	104.2	Sep	104.02
Dec	104.02	104	104.2	Dec	104.02	104	104.2	Dec	104.02
Mar	104.02	104	104.2	Mar	104.02	104	104.2	Mar	104.02
Jun	104.02	104	104.2	Jun	104.02	104	104.2	Jun	104.02
Sep	104.02	104	104.2	Sep	104.02	104	104.2	Sep	104.02

LIFE OPTIONS																							
Calls				Puts				Calls				Puts											
Series Jan Feb Mar Jun Jul Aug				Series Jan Feb Mar Jun Jul Aug				Series Dec Jan Feb Mar Jun Jul Aug				Series Dec Jan Feb Mar Jun Jul Aug											
Alld Dom	350	47	59	64	6	13	22	AAA	300	311	43	50	8	13	18	ABNY Nat	300	339	41	49	4	13	18
ASCO	360	16	39	52	25	34	46	PS20	525	107	10	18	20	—	—	PS25	420	156	24	35	15	28	33
BEA	360	16	39	52	25	34	46	THS00	500	10	10	10	10	10	10	PS30	420	156	24	35	15	28	33
CR20	280	7	15	18	20	25	31	TS250	59	10	22	27	42	46	57	PS35	30	3	4	2	4	2	4
ASCOA	30	5	5	5	2	4	3	Series Nov				Series Nov				Series Nov				Series Nov			
BEA	70	2	2	2	2	2	2	BAT Ind	420	23	56	44	3	11	23	BAC Inc	360	199	34	43	22	18	20
ASCOA	300	30	42	50	11	16	23	PS30	400	4	16	20	23	31	45	Blue Chip	300	140	22	28	8	13	20
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	PS35	400	4	16	20	23	31	45	Blue Chip	300	140	22	28	8	13	20
BR Airways	360	22	32	35	15	20	27	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
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PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
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PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
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PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
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PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
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PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
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PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31	4	6	14
PS10	300	28	28	28	42	42	59	RTX	300	10	21	21	2	10	18	B-Gas	380	178	27	31			

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

One foot in
the trade

INVESTORS have few qualms when it comes to making money, even if the opportunity happens to lie in the funeral sector. However, outside of the excitement generated this year by a rash of funeral takeovers, the subject matter is still gloomy and remains a taboo topic at polite dinner tables. Co-operative Funeral Services, which claims a 25 per cent share of the national market, is out to change all that. In what is believed to be the first of its kind in Britain, the group is staging a two-day funeral and bereavement exhibition in Glasgow, George Tinning, the Co-op's operations manager (Scotland), says solicitors, bereavement counselling organisations and the Department of Social Services are among those to have taken stands at Funeralcare '94, where you can learn that it costs between £1,000 and £1,500 extra to hire a horse-drawn hearse. The exhibition starts on December 3 at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre. Admission is free. So, too, Tinning assures me, will be the exit.

Isaac's lore

LIKE Queen Victoria, City Diary was NOT amused to learn that former diarist Debra Isaac, who left this column last year to join English Heritage, where she is press officer, is nursing hefty bruises at home. Debra was showing the media over the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens, where £14 million of restoration work is underway, when she missed her foot and fell 30ft off the scaffolding, tumbling from Prince Albert's head to his royal feet. "I've been to the top of St Paul's, to the roof of St Pancras station — but the Prince let me down", the battered, but unbowed, Debra says. We are relieved to learn that no bones were broken, and we wish her well.

KWIKKER
SAVE



In Style

STYLO, best known for Baratt shoes, also owns an equestrian subsidiary, Cottage Industries, where Neville Lawrence has been made a director. But unlike Hanson, which once owned racehorses, Stylo owns no four-legged animals. "We supply riding clothes and boots, and we do sell saddle horses. They, however, are made out of fibre-glass, are sold to saddlery outlets for £600 each, and last a lifetime," Michael Ziff, the chief executive, neighs.

Sutton's seeds

DANA Mead, the former soldier and Vietnam veteran who has turned round Tenneco, the Houston-based industrial conglomerate, yesterday revealed a Business Week round table of chief executives in London that his key policy has been the "Willy Sutton strategy". Sutton, he explained, was a well-known bank robber in America who, when asked why he persistently robbed banks, replied: "That's where the money is".

COLIN CAMPBELL

Politics prevailed in killing the great Post Office sell-off

Privatisation of the Post Office was buried by the forces that had promoted it, says Philip Bassett

In the end, as in the beginning, politics ruled. Politically controversial when it was first mooted, the Government's planned privatisation of the Post Office never broke free from the political nervousness which surrounded it, and which yesterday buried it.

The Cabinet's decision to abandon Post Office privatisation in the face of unyielding opposition from many of the Government's own backbench MPs is probably the biggest-ever Government climbdown over privatisation — and indeed one of the Conservatives' biggest climbdowns at all. It both reinforces the political sensitivity of the Post Office, and leaves it unclear now about its future.

That politics has always powered the Post Office was whiplashingly demonstrated by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, when he addressed the Commons Select Committee on the Post Office. On even the most basic of points, the hand of the Government is explicit: "It is not left to the Post Office management to decide the price of stamps — it is bound to be a political decision, because we own the Post Office."

And now, after 27 months of agonising about it, it still does. In July 1992, Mr Heseltine announced a review of the Post Office's future, with a clear intent to seek its privatisation. Now he has had to suffer the humiliating retreat of his Cabinet colleagues saying no — the latest in a series of defeats which have dogged its mooted privatisation and which have reinforced the fear that has surrounded it.

Fear has been a key characteristic. Fear of local post office closures. Fear of poorer services. Fear of a national asset being eroded. Backbenchers' fear of the electoral consequences of a move which was never enthusiastically sold to the public — in part because its principal rationale was ideological, rather than operational.

Fear of the right in the Conservative party, for whom the privatisation became a political totem. Fear of the popular impact of privatising the Royal Mail, which alone was enough for Margaret Thatcher to steer well clear of it.

Fear, on the Post Office's part, of growing competition, especially from other countries' expanding postal operations, without the greater commercial freedom its senior managers came to find only available through privatisation — and who will now have to find another way to obtain it.

Senior Post Office managers will now have to find a way of living with what they have insisted is unacceptable — the greater commercial freedom within the public sector which the Government is now likely to give. Jack Cunningham, Labour's industry spokesman, suggested yesterday that some senior Post Office managers were so openly committed to privatisation that without it, they might find their position untenable and have to go.

The body count has already started. Two Department of Trade and Industry ministers with responsibility for the Post Office were fired during the privatisation saga. Edward Leigh, an arch privatiser, may have gone for



Fear of local post office closures and poorer services led to a backlash

other reasons — but his fanatical privatisation fervour helped increase the likelihood of his ejection. Patrick McLoughlin was the universally unloved casualty of the summer reshuffle — a straight victim, it appeared, of the course of the Post Office privatisation.

The outcome is a clear failure for the Post Office, and for the pro-privatisers around Mr Heseltine — and a clear victory for the anti-privatisers, centred around Labour and the postal trade unions, who have scored a resounding and spectacular success.

Post Office leaders lobbied hard. Possibly too hard. Whitehall insiders now suggest that the lobbying of MPs, led by chief executive Bill Cockburn, may have over-egged the pudding — getting people's backs up, and in its intensity, drawing previously unnoticed attention to aspects of the potential privatisation which made electors and their MPs nervous and fearful.

The Post Office's own attitude confused people too. In an attempt not to be drawn into the political controversy

of whether it should be privatised, senior managers for long refused to be drawn on the issue, simply stating their insistence on greater commercial freedom for the Post Office.

That made them appear shifty to many — particularly when there was a widespread belief that the Post Office board and its senior management were heavily in favour of privatisation. The feeling grew stronger when with the publication of the Government's Green Paper on its future in the summer, the line changed and the leaders openly embraced privatisation as the only way forward for the Post Office. The change allowed the opposition to privatisation — already well-organised and well-executed — to move into a higher gear.

Unlike many previous campaigns of opposition, the anti-privatisers refused to be saddled with backing only the status quo. Instead, they endorsed the need for greater commercial freedom, but steadfastly and successfully maintained that privatisation was not a necessary precursor, and that this

could be obtained within public ownership.

A neat and highly effective twist — both ruefully admired and operationally regretted by the Post Office and the pro-privatisers — was the anti-privatisers' move to hire as lobbyists Lowe Bell Political, the public affairs arm of Lowe Bell Communications, the PR group run by Sir Tim Bell, Lady Thatcher's favourite PR man, which allowed the opponents of privatisation access to the very citadels of high Toryism.

Mr Heseltine, the Post Office and the pro-privatisers never got past the bad PR of the move — the strong notion in the public's mind of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". And the more they were forced to stress the success of Britain's Post Office — record profits of £306 million this year, which industry sources could be bettered next year by the Royal Mail business on its own — the more that notion applied. If the UK's Post Office is so good, went the public idea as tracked consistently by opinion polls, why change it?

Public opposition to privatisation was strong throughout. Everyone from local groups fearful for the loss of their neighbourhood post office, to the biggest-ever public petition ever collected in Britain, with more than 1.75 million signatures. Much of the public opposition was vocal, articulate, well-organised and well-targeted, and MPs, ministers and the media were left in no doubt of the groundswell of opinion against the privatisation.

Ministers tried to deride and negate public opinion by maintaining that people were opposed to change in all previous privatisations, until they saw the benefits that privatisation brought — citing the improvements in service, and in profitability and efficiency, of such privatisations as BT, or gas.

But public opinion was strong precisely because people knew the Post Office was successful, and worked well: because it is a key part of the fabric of local communities, whether urban or rural; and because it is simply liked by people in a way that BT or British Gas or the electricity or water companies were and are not.

Faced with this, Mr Heseltine and the pro-privatisers were forced to back down even on the final, desperate and now failed attempt this week to sell off "only" 40 per cent. What Mr Heseltine wanted originally was 100 per cent, as he told the Commons committee. "There is," he said, "an immensely powerful case for moving the Post Office into the private sector." When in the summer he took the "immensely powerful" case to Cabinet, his colleagues rebuffed him: not only would they not accede to privatisation, they scaled him down to 51 per cent; even then, they would not agree to that, but insisted that — after a two-year internal review — he go to public consultation with a Green Paper, an idea kicking around the DTI six months earlier.

Politically, the bruising for Mr Heseltine and the Government is intense and will be extensive — as will, for the opponents of privatisation, the jubilation when Post Office privatisation is not included in the Queen's Speech. Industrially, the Post Office now has to start picking up the pieces, and adjusting to the reality of not heading towards the private sector.

It will have a degree of greater freedom to compete in the world communications marketplace, and will continue to seek more. After more than two years of waiting, the Government has finally set the framework in which the Post Office must operate — and while some senior managers may not much like it, lump it they will have to. In a political business, politics prevailed.

Laggards and leaders in the new EC pack

Wolfgang Münchau assesses the commissioners now taking office

The main difference between the present and the new European Commission has nothing to do with the slightly altered positions of Sir Leon Brittan and Hans van den Broek, the Dutchman in charge of foreign affairs. What matters are the 13 new commissioners, mostly of high political calibre, and mostly to the left of their predecessors.

Their jobs are generally considered not quite as prestigious as the various foreign affairs portfolios over which there was so much bloodshed last weekend. One would be mistaken to write off portfolios such as transport, the environment, single market and consumer affairs, however, on the grounds that the present incumbents have been utterly ineffectual.

Ironically, it could even turn out that over the next five years that transport (commissioner: Neil Kinnock) emerges as a more prestigious portfolio than international trade (commissioner: Sir Leon).

Not because it is inherently more important but because there is simply more to be done. At this stage, Mr Kinnock has so far played all his cards right. With Philip Lowe, the current head of the mergers task force, he appointed one of the most knowledgeable Brussels insiders as his *chef de cabinet*, the most important decision a commissioner takes.

Mr Kinnock wisely accepted his assignment without argument, and last Saturday, at the fateful meeting at Luxembourg's Chateau de Senningen, he showed unequivocal loyalty to Sir Leon.

With Mr Lowe, who knows a thing or two about competition and liberalisation, Mr Kinnock will be in a strong position to press for more openness in Europe's airline industry.

As a member of the socialist majority, who outnumber the centre-right commissioners by 12 to nine, he will be in a strong position to garner support.

The neglected portfolio for consumer goes to the formidable Emma Bonino, an Italian radical who began her political career as pro-abortion activist, a not insignificant anti-establishment credential in a country like Italy.

Her fellow Italian commissioner, Mario Monti, the respected economist and rector of Milan's Bocconi university, will be in charge of the single market, the only portfolio that Jacques Santer, the Commission president-designate, has decided to strengthen, by adding responsibility over taxes and excise duties.

The main job for the internal market commissioner will be to improve people's acceptance of the single market, and eradicate the popular prejudice that the Commission is preoccupied with standardising the size of condoms or the diameter of a pizza.

The economics department, and thus responsibility for Economic and Monetary Union, will go to Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the European affairs adviser to Edouard Balladur, the French prime minister.

The appointment of a French diplomat ensures continued pressure for an early adoption of EMU, thus promising continued conflict with the Germans on this issue.

Another area of conflict will be environmental policy, where the Commission has fared badly, especially with its ill-fated proposal for carbon dioxide tax. This portfolio goes to Ritt Bjerregaard, a Danish diplomat with strong political ambitions.

Industry (commissioner: Martin Bangemann) and competition (commissioner: Karel von Miert) will remain unchanged, which should ensure continued pressure towards liberalisation, especially of telecommunications, one of Herr Bangemann's favourite areas.

At the outset, it is difficult to predict how commissioners will fare in their term. Previous political record is not a yardstick. Sir Leon and Jacques Delors turned out to be immensely more effective in Brussels than they were at home.

In general, commissioners capable of mastering detail and with a sense of the EU's institutional intricacies and unofficial power structures, have fared better than generalists.

Those who master detail usually fare better than generalists

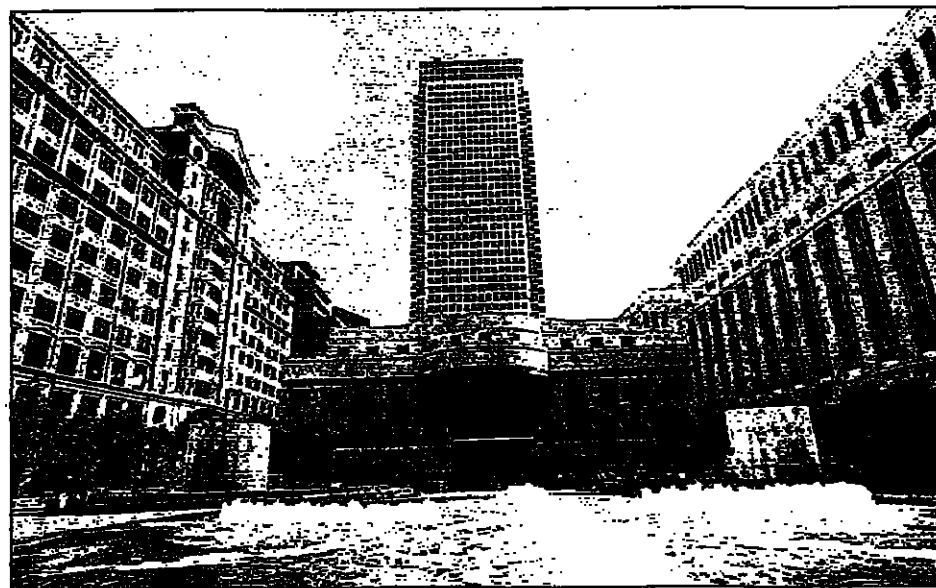
BZW has done the trick, says Carl Mortished

Canary Wharf sings a new tune

The largest letting in the London property market is a headline that must make the Reichmann brothers envious. The secretive Canadian property developers, whose private company Olympia & York took over the Canary Wharf development in 1987, were keen on superlatives. They wanted the largest office development, the tallest tower and, for a short time, became the world's greatest property developers — only to end up with the biggest bust, when banks pulled the plug on the £1.6 billion project in 1992.

The benefits of the prospective letting to BZW will flow several ways, as the investment bank's parent is Barclays, part of the original 11-bank Canary Wharf syndicate. After 18 months of negotiations with the Government over a contribution to the Jubilee Line, the bank's interest in supporting the project is more than academic. In the end, it took control through Sylvester Investments, a holding company named after the cartoon cat in eternal pursuit of the canary, Tweety.

Success in financing the Underground link helped to remove a weapon from the hands of Canary Wharf's detractors, but more important has been the gradual filling of a huge volume of empty office space left over from London's property boom in the 1980s. Mark McAllister, a partner at



Space is filling at the Docklands office scheme, and further development is planned

Richard Ellis and an adviser to Canary Wharf, reckons few places are left for banks seeking large trading floors.

Sir Peter Levene, Canary Wharf's chairman, recognises that there will always be tenants who insist on an address in the City's Square Mile. Therefore, Canary Wharf's pulling power has been, and always will be, cost. At the moment, quoted rents are £16 to £25 per sq ft in the tower, with rates another £4 per sq ft and at least two years' rent holiday. That compares with quoted rents as high as

£35 per sq ft in the City, with rates adding another £20.

News that Canary Wharf had virtually secured tenants for an extra 1 million sq ft was music to the ears of struggling property agents. "This is the making of Docklands," said Rod Parker, of Knight Frank & Rutley, at the prospect of almost a quarter of the available office space in the area being taken off the market.

Agents have hitherto had a poor relationship with Canary Wharf. "At one time, if agents tried to call Canary Wharf, they put the phone down," Mr

Parker said. Deals were agreed principal to principal, in absolute secrecy, often involving side-agreements over Manhattan properties in the O&Y empire, let to American banks that the Reichmanns wished to lure to Docklands.

Secrecy over lease terms has not lessened under Sir Peter Levene, who insists on leading negotiations. But the atmosphere is less defensive, with two firms, Jones Lang Wootton and Richard Ellis, working from the Canary Wharf headquarters.

A glittering monument to

1980s enterprise and deregulation, Canary Wharf had the backing of Margaret Thatcher, who took the controls of a JCB in a public display of support when work on the site started. But the free-wheeling spirit of the Docklands Enterprise Zone, complete with tax breaks and rate holidays, came to haunt its promoters when the City of London hit back against the competition by relaxing its own planning controls, creating a property glut.

There are signs that tower cranes may soon be returning to the City, as development restarts, but Sir Peter is hopeful that Canary Wharf will not just survive competition but be in a position to launch further phases of development when the remaining 1 million sq ft is let in two to three years' time. "The City will always be more expensive because the land is more expensive," he says, pointing to the massive tax losses and capital allowances available to reduce the cost of development at Canary Wharf.

More at home in the public arena than his predecessor, Paul Reichmann, Sir Peter muses that a flotation of Canary Wharf might be an attractive prospect. His shareholders, the banks, also have the option of selling all or some of the buildings in due course. After almost three years of frustration, Sylvester has got a grip on the Canary.

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Seton calls for £28m to buy brands

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SETON Healthcare, the medical products group, is spending £24.6 million on a string of over-the-counter brands. The acquisitions are being funded by a one-for-three rights issue at 285p a share to raise £28.5 million.

The shares fell 18p to 343p. Seton is spending £13.8 million on Napp OTC medical brands, which include five head lice treatments and J. Collis Browne's, the diarrhoea treatment, and the Paramol analgesic.

Total sales of these brands in 1993 were £5.5 million, of which the UK accounted for about £5 million, the Republic of Ireland for £400,000 and other export markets for £100,000. The vendors warrant that sales and operating profits in the UK and Ireland were £3.6 million and £1.5 million respectively in the eight months to the end of October.

Seton is paying £5 million for additional rights to the Betadine range of antiseptic treatments and £5.8 million for Brevet, a manufacturer and supplier of compression therapy products.

The company said both the Napp and Brevet acquisitions will be earnings enhancing immediately.

The balance of the rights issue will be used to finance the future development of the group's businesses. Pending investment funds will be used to reduce borrowings.

Norman Stoller, chairman, said the acquisitions "offer Seton exciting opportunities for growth". The announcement came as Mr Stoller announced a 27 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £4 million in the six months to August 31. The advance was made on the back of an 18 per cent rise in sales to £26.3 million. This reflected a 17 per cent rise in healthcare sales and a 32 per cent leap in sport and leisure sales.

The interim dividend, payable on January 31, rose from 1.9p to 2.2p. Earnings are 8.9p a share (7.2p).



Graeme Bowler, chief executive of Kwik Save, said yesterday that he saw the Shoprite deal as an acquisition of assets, not sales

UK car parts makers outclassed by rivals

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S car parts makers remain hugely outclassed by international rivals, despite a drive to improve productivity and quality.

Productivity in France and Spain is nearly twice that in the UK, while only Italian manufacturers achieve lower quality standards.

The findings, contained in a nine-country study by Andersen Consulting, Cambridge University and the University of Wales, will reinforce concern that British component makers are likely to be driven out of business unless they quickly achieve a big improvement in performance.

Of the 71 companies studied, only 13 plants were judged to achieve world-class performance. Five were in Japan, three in France, three in the US and two in Spain. None of

the 12 British companies examined were internationally competitive. Some achieved middling results on stock turns, incoming and internal defects, but all failed to reach acceptable levels of productivity, unit labour costs and customer satisfaction.

Professor Dan Jones of Cardiff University, co-author of the study, said British manufacturers could make huge cost savings through radical reform of their operations and closer collaboration with customers and suppliers.

"We have all the ingredients for world class success in the UK, but so far have not discovered the secret of combining them," he said.

The study recorded substantial productivity improvements in British component factories over the past two

years, particularly among suppliers to transplant factories run by Honda, Nissan and Toyota. But during the same period the improvements achieved by Japanese component makers, which are already twice as efficient, were even greater.

Overall, the study showed that the Japanese are 35 per cent more efficient than the Europeans, while US suppliers are 15 per cent better. Defect rates in Europe are also seven times higher than in Japan. Furthermore, the Japanese are expected to achieve cost reductions of up to 30 per cent over the next two or three years, reinforcing the leading position of Japanese car makers world-wide.

According to the researchers, Britain's components industry suffered from the

fragmentation of both component suppliers and customers. Despite the efforts of car-makers to encourage improvements by suppliers, the proliferation of car makers and standards was inimical to efficiency. However, rising volumes should provide some help in the future.

Germany also scored surprisingly badly. Many of the German plants suffered from complex products, high labour costs, varied products and small production volumes.

France, helped by the dominance of Renault and PSA, showed high efficiency, fair quality and widespread knowledge of best practice. Spain, meantime, benefited from new and simple products, high productivity and high quality, making its plants a force to be reckoned with.

Kwik Save buys out Shoprite for cash

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

KWIK Save, Britain's biggest food discounter, is buying the beleaguered Shoprite chain of discount supermarkets for £53.1 million in cash. Shoprite, one of the biggest casualties of the supermarket price wars, said the deal was the best way to resolve its financial problems. It admitted it was now at the limit of its banking facilities and was unable to trade its way out of its difficulties.

Graeme Bowler, Kwik Save's chief executive, said he saw the purchase as more of a property deal than a business acquisition. "We look at it as acquiring assets not sales," he said.

Kwik Save is paying £45.7 million for the supermarket sites plus an estimated £7.4 million for stock. Shoprite will be left with a handful of properties in the UK and Isle of Man and it will also retain responsibility for £25.8 million of bank debt. It will also have to pay hire purchase liabilities of £8.6 million and trade creditors £13.3 million.

Kwik Save will fund the deal from its own cash resources and existing borrowing facilities. Mr Bowler said the group was taking out a competitor and effectively paying for it with petty cash.

The purchase will have a small dilutive effect on profits in the current year due to the time lag between completion and converting the stores to the Kwik Save format next year at a cost of about £15 million. The deal will enhance earnings thereafter.

The acquisition will substantially boost Kwik Save's presence in Scotland, where it has been anxious to expand. The number of stores north of the border will rise from six to more than 100, or about 10 per cent of the Scottish market.

News of the deal accompanied Kwik Save's results which showed a 7.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £135.6 million from £126.1 million, well ahead of City expectations.

A final dividend of 13.5p (12.9p) brings the total to 19.25p (18.3p) and will be paid to shareholders on January 12.

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Stagecoach stake in Mainline referred

THE proposed acquisition by Stagecoach, the bus operator, of a 20 per cent stake in Mainline Partnership has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Jonathan Evans, Corporate Affairs Minister, said he had ordered the probe on the advice of Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director-general of Fair Trading. Mr Evans said the acquisition raised concerns over the bus market in parts of South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Mainline, based in Sheffield, was established a year ago through an employee buyout from local authorities in South Yorkshire. The MMC has been asked to report by February 9. Last week, Labour called for a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the operating practices of Derby-based Stagecoach, the UK's largest private sector bus company. The demand followed a television documentary which included claims by rival bus companies that Stagecoach had used anti-competitive trading activities. Stagecoach has denied the allegations.

MS issues warning

MS INTERNATIONAL, the engineering group, warned shareholders of a pre-tax loss of up to £1 million in the six months to October 29. The loss, which compares with a profit for the corresponding period a year earlier of £462,000, would include substantial restructuring and reorganisation costs, said the company. It attributed the problems to two subsidiaries, MSI-Transportation Systems and Ernst Wilhelm. The other group subsidiaries are trading profitably and in line with expectations, added the company. Directors said they did not intend to pay an interim dividend. Prospects for a final dividend would be reviewed.

Jarvis Porter acquisition

A MOVE into "intelligent labels" carrying information on sophisticated bar codes is a smart move for Jarvis Porter, according to Richard Brewster, chief executive. Jarvis is paying up to £27.2 million for Donprint, the Glasgow company that prints labels for the computer industry. The acquisition will be financed through a £13.7 million placing, £5 million in shares to vendors, £6 million in cash plus £1.5 million in deferred payments and up to £1 million to an executive share option scheme. Jarvis made pre-tax profits of £4.7 million in the six months to August 31, up from £3.4 million. The interim dividend is raised from 1.65p to 1.9p.

MMT raises payout

AN IMPROVEMENT in trading conditions during the financial year to August 31 has continued into the current year, according to Mike Tilbrook, the chairman of MMT Computing, a computer services company that is quoted on the USM. Pre-tax profits rose from £1.7 million to £2.5 million, above market expectations, and earnings per share from 9p to 13.1p. The final dividend of 3.7p makes a total of 5.2p, up from 4p. The shares increased by 8p, to 181p. Turnover from continuing operations rose by more than 50 per cent, to £10.9 million.

Quadrant plans dividend

QUADRANT, the photographic equipment supplier, is sticking to its forecast that it will return to the dividend list at the end of the current financial year despite a slump in interim pre-tax profits from £1 million to £154,000 in the period to August 31. Earnings per share were only 0.7p, compared with 4.35p last time. Profits in the first half last year were boosted by a £1.3 million gain from the disposal of businesses. At the operating level, Quadrant swung from a £299,000 loss to a £93,000 profit. The shares were unchanged at 28p. Turnover improved from £22.9 million to £25 million.

Raglan profits ahead

THE first dividend in five years is likely to be paid by Raglan Properties at the end of this financial year to March 31. Raglan boosted interim pre-tax profits from £89,000 to £3.1 million and earnings per share from 0.3p to 2.71p. Sir Wilfrid Newton, chairman, said Raglan would continue to trade properties for the rest of the year to take advantage of what it perceives as an active two-way property market. The forecast of a final dividend lifted the shares 2.5p to 34p. The last dividend was paid in 1989 before Raglan had four years of losses, a capital reconstruction and a rights issue.

J Smart declines again

A WARNING that second-half profits would show no improvement on the first half has proved accurate at J Smart, the Scottish building and public works contractor. In spite of an increase in turnover from £12.8 million to £17.2 million in the year to July 31, pre-tax profits slipped from £1.2 million to £1.7 million and earnings per share from 13.20p to 10.02p. Profits have now fallen for three years in a row. The shares eased 5p to 220p. Smart is maintaining the final dividend at 6.2p, making an unchanged total of 8.5p.

Ransomes to sell land

RANSOMES, the lawnmower company that has returned to profit after three years of losses but still has high borrowings, has signed a conditional agreement to sell land in Ipswich for development to Sears, the retail group, for £9.75 million. The 12.3-acre site is at the Sandlings on the Ransomes Europark. The agreement is conditional upon the grant of planning permission. Termination provisions can be triggered if planning permission is not in place by May 12. In August, the company reported interim profits of £6.71 million, but said gearing still exceeded 450 per cent.

Van Wezel splits roles at Hi-Tec

By RODNEY HOBSON

FRANK van Wezel, chairman and chief executive of Hi-Tec Sports, has completed the restructuring of the footwear group by splitting his roles.

Mr van Wezel will continue as executive chairman but Terry Mackness, 48, president of the US operations, becomes group chief executive. He will divide his time between Britain and the US.

The appointment acknowledges the increased role that the American business enjoys in Hi-Tec. Sales there have grown from £9 million to £40 million since Mr Mackness moved to California in 1989 and now account for 38 per cent of group turnover.

He joined Hi-Tec as marketing manager in 1981 after spells with Cadbury-Schweppes and Imperial Tobacco and took responsibility for UK operations in 1986.

A company spokesman said there had been no institutional pressure on Mr van Wezel,



Van Wezel: "no pressure"

who owns 53 per cent, to split his roles after two difficult years. Hi-Tec shares slumped 69p to 106p in July 1992, when Mr van Wezel said the group was suffering from heavy discounting by overseas competitors. The most recent results showed a pre-tax loss of £7.1 million in the six months to July. Yesterday the shares were unchanged at 41p.

Celsis settles with ousted former chief

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

CELIS International, a biotechnology company based in Cambridge, said it had amicably settled a legal dispute with Dr Tony Martin, who was dismissed as chief executive without compensation in April (Martin Barrow writes).

The company, floated on the stock market last year, is to pay Dr Martin £80,000 and contribute up to £40,000 towards his costs. Subject to shareholders' approval, Celis has also agreed to set up, and loan funds to, a share option trust for the benefit of certain senior employees. This will purchase 500,000 shares in the company from Dr Martin, at 48p each.

Dr Martin has agreed to retain his remaining holding of 1.3 million shares for an extended period after the termination of the placing agreement next July. Yesterday Celsis shares fell 1p to 71p.

On Wednesday, the company reported an increase in interim pre-tax losses, from £560,000 to £2.2 million.

Ferranti arm may be sold to buy-in

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

A MANAGEMENT team has emerged as favourite to buy the component manufacturing business of Ferranti International, the collapsed defence electronics company.

John Talbot and Murdoch McKillop, the administrative receivers from Arthur Andersen, yesterday announced an agreement in principle to sell the business, based at Cairo Mill, Oldham, to a management buy-in. Sales negotiations are likely to be completed this month, securing the 300 existing jobs.

Mr McKillop said: "When we were appointed to Ferranti International last December the Cairo Mill component manufacturing plant was heavily loss-making but necessary to the continuation of trading at Ferranti's other businesses."

Since then, the business has been substantially restructured and has been injected into a new company, Ferranti

Technologies, in preparation for the sale.

The management buy-in team is led by Trevor Tuckley, an industrial and commercial consultant, who was recruited by the receivers in the summer to restructure the business into four units: avionics, design engineering, electronic assembly, and repair and maintenance.

Cairo Mill is currently engaged in the design, manufacture, testing and repair of specialist electronic assemblies including electronic warfare products and power supplies. Outstanding orders are in excess of £17 million.

Administrative receivers were appointed to Ferranti in December 1993. The main defence business was sold to GEC in May of this year with industrial systems and satellite communications subsequently sold to Thomson CSF and Matra Marconi respectively.

Henley reveals income gap threat

By ROBERT MILLER

THE prospect of more people making greater use of the private savings and investments markets to underpin their future financial security is called into question by new research published yesterday by the Henley Centre.

Personal spending on life assurance, pensions and medical insurance as a proportion of real disposable income is set to increase from its present level of 2.7 per cent to only 2.9 per cent by 1999.

The forecasting centre said this was because income will only grow by a modest 2 per cent between now and then. In the short-term, tax increases already in the pipeline will act as a depressant on the consumer "feel good factor". Next April, for example, VAT on fuel will be increased to 17.5 per cent and mortgage interest tax relief will be cut to 15 per cent. Beyond that in-



Norman Lamont launched the report last night

creased flexibility within the labour market is likely to go hand-in-hand with reduced job security.

The Henley Centre report, *Economic Research into the Role of Financial Services in the Welfare of the Nation*, also

points out the growing "income inequality" gap. Over the 1980s, the poorest 5 per cent of society experienced a real decline in their income. By contrast the richest group saw their income increase by 58 per cent.

Launching the report last night, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, said: "People will have to look to making more private provision for their future financial needs rather than looking to the state."

The report, which was commissioned by IFA Promotion, a campaigning body for independent financial advisers, said: "We expect to see this polarisation in income continue. Between 1992 and 2000 we expect to see the top 20 per cent of society enjoying a 36 per cent real increase in their income, while the bottom 20 per cent will see an increase of only 3 per cent."

The conclusion is that Government spending will have to address the needs of those in the lower income brackets of society which will increasingly bear the brunt of long-term unemployment, health problems and slow income growth. Measures such as encourag-

ing the greater use of personal pension plans and a greater take up of private medical insurance, which is now used by one in eight people, will save the government an estimated £29 billion in the current financial year. This is after allowing for some £9 billion in tax concessions allowed by the Treasury.

The Henley Centre comments, however: "The financial services industry has still to prove that self-regulation can deliver in terms of the right types of financial products for individuals."

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POP page 35
An affecting acoustic
album from Nirvana
reveals the gentler side
of the late Kurt Cobain

ARTS

POP page 36
Mod cons? You might
think the Sixties were
fab. But you'd be wrong,
insists Caitlin Moran



In a majority of one

As Edward Albee's
Three Tall Women
opens in London,
Alan Franks talks
to a dramatist whom
the critics love to hate

What is a difficult old man like Edward Albee doing in a nice town like London? The short answer is that he is having his new play, *Three Tall Women*, staged here, with Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia Hille. Before the longer answer can be reached, the question needs more sympathetic attention than his work has sometimes received from his fearful compatriots.

That he is difficult cannot be in doubt, for it has been said enough times by middlebrow America to have moved past the status of a view and into that of official truth. The hostility may have been directed towards the things he writes, but it has caught the man in its fire as well. Hence, his winning of the Pulitzer Prize — his third, for *Three Tall Women* — is a defiant, dramatic comeback after two decades of critical scorn.

On occasions the disapproval has been so spiced with loathing that it has declared him disqualified by his own sexuality from writing honestly about a sizeable chunk of the population: the female chunk. These slights delight and enrage him, and are far more welcome than compliments.

That London is nice can also not be in doubt, for it is where all the best American playwrights have been made to feel at home this year with their new work: Arthur Miller at the National, David Mamet at the Ambassadors, Wendy Wasserstein at the Old Vic.

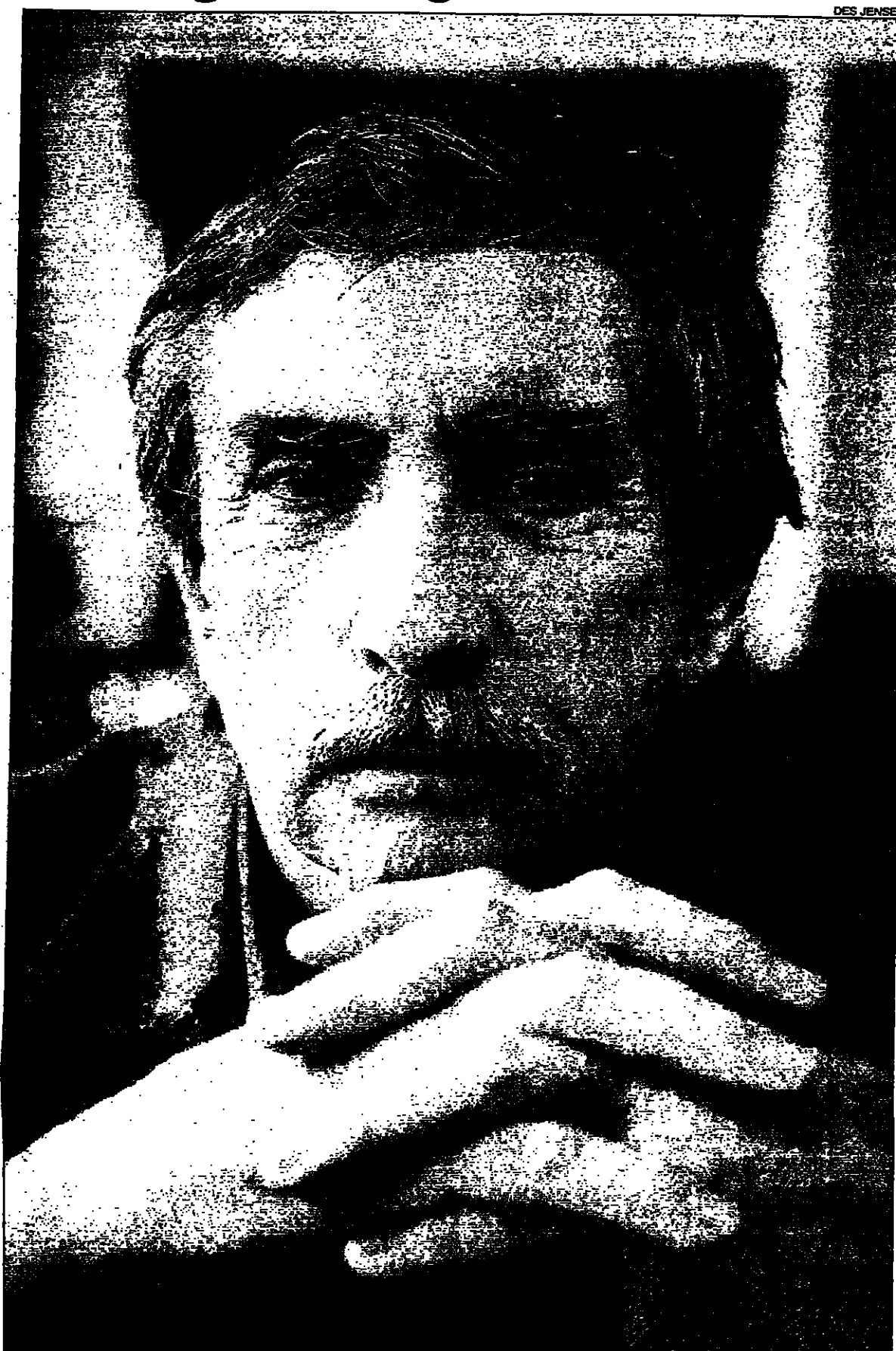
This observation leads Albee directly to one of the themes in which he also feels at home: the condition of Broadway. "The public's expectation has been lowered by what the theatre owners permit to be done there," he says. Any play allowed to go to Broadway is something that has been proved commercial enough to be tolerated by an audience whose taste has been systematically lowered.

"So, when you ask what it is that I find 'good' about London, I would answer that any [theatrical] environment in which commerce is not the be-all and end-all is something to be grateful for. If someone gave me the \$10 million, or whatever, necessary to fill every Broadway theatre for five years with nothing but first-rate plays, that would elevate audience taste and they would no longer tolerate the stuff they do."

Not that this makes London safe from his censure. "It's not how it used to be here. When I was coming over in the 1960s and 1970s, there was much better stuff being put on beyond the National and the RSC than now."

For example, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Someone had to mention the play that made his reputation more than 30 years ago, and it didn't look as though he was going to. As I mention that title, he gives a rather weary, here-we-go-again smile. "People want the familiar. You must never be owned by an audience, or by the critics or any of these people. You lose identity and your freedom of movement. Certainly, there was a temptation to write *Son of Virginia Woolf*, but it was not what I wanted to do."

There is a strong temptation to keep Albee on the subject of critics, for there is anger and confrontation here, the very forces which so often give his dramatic writing the impact of a thump in the chest. There is also that unpalatable honesty, the quality that



Edward Albee: his winning of a third Pulitzer Prize is a defiant comeback after two decades of critical scorn

has made him painfully adept at anatomising human relationships. Fifteen years ago, with *The Lady From Dubuque*, he wrote a clear-eyed play about cancer at a time when the theme was receiving a number of sentimental treatments. As ever, Albee's sufferers carried on not as stoics or heroes but as needy, self-obsessed individuals.

Three years later, another candid piece entitled *The Man Who Had Three Arms* closed after a fortnight of critical virulence. Broadway turned its back on him, and the gesture was reciprocated. He and the 1980s diverged sufficiently for him to seem almost European in his distance from the American mainstream. Surely the 1990s is more sympathetic to his emotional realism? "Well, people go in and out of fashion," he replies. "For a long time I think I was being punished for being too outspoken. But New York is really the only place where I have been out of fashion myself. The critical mafia there, my God."

I ask him how things have changed since *The New York Times's* Frank Rich, the "butcher of Broadway", passed from the scene. "Oh, did he die?" "No."

"Pity." A sense of exclusion is hardly new to him. As a boy he was sent to, and then away from, several expensive private schools, and recalls being constantly at war with the social and political values they represented. He was the adopted son of one of the heirs to the Keith-Albee vaudeville chain who was married to an upwardly mobile mannequin, his third wife. The turbulent relationship between this woman and the young Albee is at the heart of *Three Tall Women*. Without giving everything away, "which the critics are bound to do, you wait and see," it shows a woman in her nineties lolling in and out of senility, observed by two others who seem to share her identity but at different stages of life.

Albee might long ago have tired of being called a gay playwright, except that he remains angry about it, and anger demands energy. Now 66 but looking a good deal younger, he still writes a play every 18 months, teaches one term a year at Houston University, and directs the work of other dramatists. Beckett is a particular favourite.

In the past few years he has lost many close friends, several but by no means all to AIDS. "No, I have never felt I should write a play about it. AIDS is the symptom of a disease, and the disease is prejudice. I have been writing about prejudice all my life. For the Religious Right in America, who are taking over the Republican Party, it is the Gay Scourge and it serves the victims right. You just wait until what is happening in Africa happens in the West, when 95 per cent of the sufferers are straight. Oh boy, will you see a change of attitude then."

Three Tall Women, in preview at Wyndhams (071-369 1736), opens Nov 15

CONCERTS: Shakespeare in music; fine Beethoven and Brahms

Notes on the Bard

LSO/Rostropovich
Barbican

THE scale of Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet* is such that we can only rarely hear it complete and accompanied by the action for which it was designed. Orchestras usually play one of the composer's own concert suites, or a selection made by a conductor. There is nothing other than them to look at. Even with such vivid music and such a well known plot, it is all too easy to forget the context, significance and emotional weight of individual numbers.

Obviously no dancing was possible when the London Symphony Orchestra performed Mstislav Rostropovich's own selection last Wednesday, in the context of their all-Russian contribution to the Barbican's "Everybody's Shakespeare" festival. Instead there was the perfect, if obvious, substitution, one of which future concert planners ought to take note. An actor, Michael Feast no less, introduced and read pertinent purple passages from the play itself, making the relevance of every piece unmistakable. Feast's ability to pluck character and situation from the play and instantly bring both to life palpably inspired the fervour of Rostropovich's reading and the LSO's playing.

There were some marvelous moments from the horns, while the strings cultivated a luscious sound, at its most impressive in the final adagio. Few could have stayed unaffected by Feast's reading of Romeo's words at the tomb: the players were obviously not among those few. Meanwhile the funeral march for Tybalt had a tragic, searing intensity: the fight music was thrusting and furious, and the love music tenderness itself.

"Everybody's Shakespeare" was doubtless what Shostakovich had in mind when in 1932, three years before Prokofiev's ballet, he provided the incidental music for Akimov's

Russianised production of *Hamlet*. This was the period of such bold works as the Fourth Symphony, but here Shostakovich's agenda seems simply to decorate. There are nevertheless some nice touches, ideas that predict the Fifth Symphony, and many characteristic sounds, like the angular octave strings, the martial beat of the side drum, the favourite combination of clarinet and bassoon.

But in the end, heard outside its original context, this suite sounded like a job hastily, even unwillingly, done. Contrary to the programme note, it contains all the lightweight facetiousness apparently present in Akimov's adaptation, unlike Balakirev's dashing but substantial overture *King Lear*, written seven decades earlier, which opened the concert. Both were nicely enough performed.

A pity, incidentally, that the LSO has limited itself to just a single Shakespeare concert. The programming possibilities stretch far; and this concert, not particularly well attended, seemed like a dutiful appendage rather than a vital cog in the works.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Familiar freshness

LP/Jansons
Festival Hall

FOR more than a quarter of a century Kyung-Wha Chung has been playing the concert platforms of the world, and yet her Beethoven Violin Concerto still breathes all the wonder of a first encounter.

With the London Philharmonic at its most supple and sentient, the concerto began with a poised authority which provided just the sense of space and assurance to set the soloist's entry into glowing relief.

Chung challenged the orchestra with her keen anticipation of every harmonic modulation, and by a rhythmic precision stripped of the comfort of cliché. She chose Kreisler's cadenza: its natural flamboyance was tamed to a searching distillation of the first movement's musical substance.

Chung has now scaled her engagements down to no more than 60 a year, and chamber-music making is as important for her as ever. This was quite obvious here in the new-minted, ever-shifting tones of voice in which she played out the slow movement's variations, and the delighted mischief coiled up and springing out of the finale.

The first half of the evening, which opened with Schubert's Overture in the Italian Style, was dominated by a seductive performance of Brahms's Third Symphony. The intimacy of this work — its confiding lyricism, cryptic thematic concentration and emotional ambivalence — were all sniffed out by Mariss Jansons, whose conducting created often surprisingly transparent textures.

This was another evening of sharp musical insight from the London Philharmonic in an all too short series with its principal guest conductor.

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THEATRE: A strong cast cannot save an unengaging script about the magazine world, says Benedict Nightingale

Deadlines, dead lines

The Editing Process
Royal Court

THE editor of *Footnotes in History* has just been fired, so he is hardly a disinterested witness when he talks a bit cynically about the British book-and-magazine jungle. "This company," he says, "is a swarming mess of publications constantly devouring each other, constantly changing their shape, constantly dying and giving birth without ceremony and without reason, like the benighted population of a cursed subcontinent."

But he has a point; and not only about the whimsically run conglomerate that has recently bought his cosy little journal and moved it far from Bloomsbury. There is clearly need of a piece like *The Editing Process*, which seeks to chronicle his inevitable destruction by the opportunists and philistines.

But is Meredith Oakes, a dramatist new to mainstream theatre, yet up to the task of writing it? Her play is marooned somewhere between highly mannered satire and the humane comedy of, say, Prayn's *Alphabetical Order*

or Gray's *Common Pursuit*. It has not sufficient wit for the first category nor reality enough for the second.

A pity, because Stephen Daldry's cast is a strong one, starting with the eminent actor playing William Eaton, the embattled editor. But Alan Howard is also part of the problem. He winces and he flinches, exuding a rusty, mandarin preciousness from beneath his vaguely bohemian hat. The glass-bubble office designed by Ian MacNeil clearly appals him, as does the part of London in which it is set. He cannot say words like Poplar, air conditioning or Pot Noodle without putting them in invisible quotation marks. It is as if Brian Sewell were to find himself trapped inside one of Damien Hirst's pickled



Alan Howard and Prunella Scales as the mutually doomed magazine editor and his secretary in *The Editing Process*

sheep: too much of a caricature for what his author proceeds to ask of him and her play.

The plot mostly involves office treacheries. The Owner, as the unseen publisher is called, sends in two sick vandals: Nicholas Woodeson's baseball-hatted Lionel, who boasts he has "terminated three publications this afternoon", and Annabelle Apson's Tamara, an image

expert who has a hairdo like a Thai temple with chopsticks sticking out. Backs are prolifically and interchangeably stabbed by everybody except William's secretary, in Prunella Scales's performance a nice, comely sort who speaks ("Mothers who don't put their daughters in a brace have a lot to answer for") like one of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*.

She duly falls, while William's deputy, in Tom Hollander's performance a cowardly nerd with a blundering survival instinct, somehow contrives to rise. The logic of his promotion is slight; but then Oakes's point is, I suppose, that there is little logic in the business madhouse.

But could she not have expressed this idea more incisively? She turns the odd funny line, but manages to be neither imaginatively scathing nor more conventionally truthful.

At the end, Howard's William blubs forlornly away, an editor erased — but do we care about him or take his predicament seriously? The answer to both questions is no.



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POP ALBUMS: In a heavyweight week, David Sinclair goes the distance with real contenders

Hemmed in by the flowers of romance, Nirvana — (from left) Krist Novoselic, Dave Grohl and Kurt Cobain — go acoustic for *Unplugged in New York*

Glimpses of paradise lost

NIRVANA

Unplugged in New York
(Geffen GED 24727)
PERFORMED A year ago for the MTV series, Nirvana's *Unplugged in New York* is an affecting swansong from the group that shifted the rock world on its axis. Comprising 14 songs and recorded in as much time as it would ordinarily take the engineer to fix the drum sound, it reveals the gentler side of Kurt Cobain, and confirms his immense talent as both a writer and interpreter of other people's songs.

Relaxed and joking with the audience one minute — "I guarantee you I will screw this song up," he insists before launching into a gently engaging version of David Bowie's "The Man Who Sold The World" — at other points he suddenly contorts his voice into that familiar right, rasping shriek, most dramatically on a harrowing version of Leadbelly's "Where Did You Sleep Last Night".

Of the Nirvana songs, it is "All Apologies" and a scrappy, solo version of "Pennyroyal Tea" that make the most dramatic impact, not least because we know what happened six months after he sang: "Everything is my fault/I'll take all the blame".

But the most revealing sequence is a trio of numbers — "Plateau", "Oh Me" and "Lake Of Fire" — written by and performed with Curt Kirkwood of Meat Puppets. Hinting at one of many new directions Cobain's music could have taken, these are the kind of reflective, country-tinged rock songs that have succoured Neil Young (and

many others) through some very dark times. It's a shame Cobain did not leave himself time to investigate this avenue more fully.

THE BLACK CROWES

America
(American 74321 23682)
ITS risqué cover photograph has been banned from London Underground and other poster sites. Few of its songs are likely to be exposed on the radio, thanks to a lack of properly crafted choruses and Jack Joseph Puig's raucous production. And whatever rate of pay singer Chris Robinson is demanding for his garbled, heavy-stoner lyrics, it is too much.

Still, *America*, the third album by the Black Crowes, remains a mighty achievement, transcending such self-imposed hurdles with reckless ease and, in an extraordinary week for heavyweight rock releases, emerging ahead of the pack by a neck.

The idea that the Crowes owe a stylistic debt to 1970s rockers such as

the Faces and Free now seems rather quaint in view of the plagiaristic outrages perpetrated by the recent Primal Scream album. Even so, those listeners in search of the spiritual provenance of *America*'s winning mixture of blues, soul and heavy rock need look no further than the first two albums by the Jeff Beck Group (1968-69), featuring Rod Stewart.

While there are many moments of melodic grace — the chorus of "A Conspiracy" or the gently swooping slide guitar motif of "Descending" for instance — *America* as a whole is a decidedly riff-based experience.

When they pile into the pedalling groove of "Gone" or the exhilarating junk metal-funk of "P.25 London", a boneshaking ride is obviously in store. But even when songs such as "Cursed Diamond" and "High Head Blues" start off in a gentle vein, the guitars are soon gathering like storm clouds. Noisy, exuberant and irrepressibly in the right place at the right time, *America* is a blast.

JIMMY PAGE & ROBERT PLANT

No Quarter
(Fontana 526 362)
IF THERE was one person you could have counted on to resist getting in on the old pals' act it was Robert Plant. Regal in his dismissal of "Led Zeppelin to re-form" rumours, his solo career has been as inspired as his former partner Jimmy Page's was half-hearted. But, as even the surviving Beatles have now discovered, there inevitably comes a moment when the time (and the cheque) is right, and a reunion does not seem such a bad idea after all.

To their credit, Page and Plant have mustered four new songs for *No Quarter*, and they have attempted a radical overhaul of the various Zeppelin numbers disinterred initially for a live MTV recording, recently broadcast as *Unleaded*. The Zeppelin tracks include "Thank You", "Since I've Been Loving You", "Gallows Pole", "Four Sticks" and a 12-minute version of "Kashmir" which finds Plant doing a pretty good imitation of a muezzin wail.

All four of the new songs scrupulously eschew the traditional Zeppelin rock'n'roll thump in favour of exotic world/folk arrangements, with the sound of Arabic instruments given particularly prominence. Best of these is "Yallah", a jabbering Arab-industrial hybrid, but "Wah Wah" with its low-tuned, acoustic guitar riff and massed Bedouin chanting may not be the only song to stretch the patience of the more conservative Zeppelin fan.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *Unplugged in New York*.....Nirvana (Geffen)
- 2 *Cross Road — The Best Of*.....Bon Jovi (Jambico)
- 3 *Bedtime Stories*.....Madonna (Maverick)
- 4 *The Greatest Hits*.....INXS (Mercury)
- 5 *Monster*.....R.E.M. (Wamer Bros)
- 6 *The Best Of*.....Chris Rea (East West)
- 7 *America*.....Black Crowes (American)
- 8 *Big Ones*.....Aerosmith (Geffen)
- 9 *The Division Bell*.....Pink Floyd (EMI)
- 10 *Twelve Deadly Cyns*.....Cyndi Lauper (Epic)

Compiled by MRIB

Actor grabs his production credit

C

INFOTECH

Goodbye to heavy breathers

From tomorrow a BT facility means you can identify unwanted callers, says Matthew May

Are you one of those people who do not like, or cannot be bothered, to leave messages on answering machines? Or are you infuriated when arriving at the office or returning home to find an answering machine where your callers have rung off without leaving a message or their number?

From tomorrow that will become an a thing of the past when a new service starts that will automatically give you the telephone numbers of your callers. Caller identification is being introduced by BT and will instantly be available to 90 per cent of its subscribers.

There are two ways in which it can be used. By dialling 1471 from Saturday should result in most BT customers getting a recorded announcement from their local exchange giving the telephone number of the last person to call you. All that matters is that the phone rang — you will still get the number of the person who called whether you answered it or not.

More sophisticated is Caller Display. BT customers can opt to pay £16 a year for the service and then buy or rent a £50 unit that will show and store the number of most callers before you answer the phone.

A £90 phone that includes a screen to display callers' numbers will allow you to build up a personal telephone directory that will display any names you choose to be associated with certain numbers when they call you. "She doesn't want to talk to Tom or Dick... luckily she knows it's Harry," says a BT brochure explaining how it works.

BT argues that caller identification is merely the telephone equivalent of looking at a see who is knocking before you open your front door. But it is potentially a very controversial service. When introduced in the United States it received both praise and complaints. Organisations, from the emergency services to takeaway restaurants, reported a sharp drop in the number of hoax calls. And if you do not show up for a restaurant booking you could find yourself the subject of an irate call from the manager regardless of whether you gave them



She doesn't want to talk to Tom or Dick — luckily she knows it's Lynne and Ali — a display phone illustrating BT's call-identity service

your number when you reserved a table.

Less impressed were civil liberties groups and others who argued that caller identification was an invasion of privacy. Typical examples cited are those wanting to make calls to crime reporting lines or confidential helplines anonymously. And if your number is shown to every Tom, Dick or Harry it could make being ex-directory almost meaningless. The situation is made more serious in America by the existence of reverse phone directories which can give an address from a phone number.

The result in most of the US has been the insistence by individual states that telephone companies provide a free call-blocking option for people who do not want their numbers displayed.

BT is well aware of the potential minefield and has included certain features to try and head off any complaints. For a start, any caller can dial 141 in front of any telephone number and their own number will

not show up, be stored by caller display equipment, or be given out by the exchange through call return. There is no extra charge for this service. BT customers can also block their number from ever being given out by dialling 0800 80 1471 or 150 and making that request.

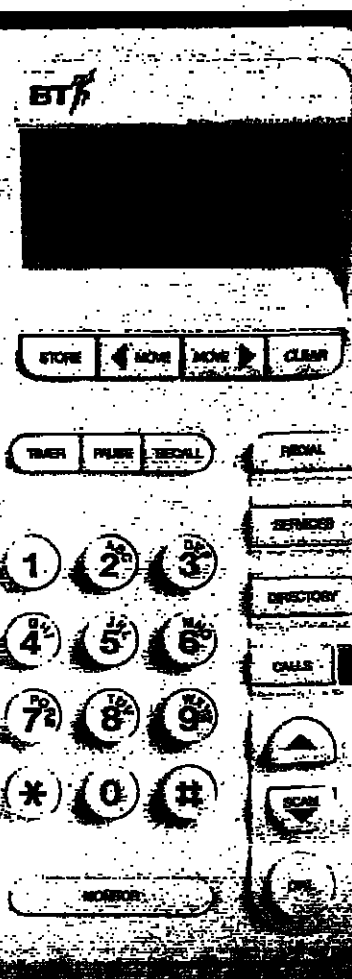
Crimestopper confidential helplines say they will not use the service when answering calls, and will use the 141 blocking option when making or returning calls so that anyone else who picks up the phone and looks at the equipment will not know who is calling.

At first sight the ease with which numbers can be blocked from display by using the 141 option appears to ruin one of the main points of caller identification — to deter malicious and hoax callers. If sex pests, for example, are going to make an unwanted call the chances are they will dial 141 first.

However, using 141 only stops the number being transmitted to the subscriber. The exchange still has it,

and BT stresses that it will continue to trace such callers at police request. There is also the question of whether a call using the 141 prefix will be answered. BT says: "Customers who use the 141 number withhold facility, or elect to have their number withheld on all calls made from their line, should be aware that customers using caller display will see the 'number withheld' display when answering their phone and may consequently be reluctant to accept such calls."

The problem with this attitude, of course, is that those who want to keep their number private, ex-directory subscribers for example, may well end up being mistaken for heavy breathers and find their calls unanswered. Similarly, if you ever want to order takeaway food, make a restaurant booking or order goods over the phone you should think twice about barring your number from ever being given out.



The lost children

THE UNITED Nations has produced a CD-Rom to reunite up to 10,000 children separated from their parents by the war in Bosnia. Children's names, pictures and locations will be stored on the disc which will be distributed to refugee centres in former Yugoslavia and abroad. Parents can then consult the database to try to locate missing children. Those too small to remember their names are listed by photograph and area of origin.

workers, as well as those running telecottages and telecentres, the seminar costs £65. Launched in 1993, the Association offers electronic forums, an advice and helpline and a bi-monthly magazine. For more information, telephone 0800 616008.

Work of art

TWO JAPANESE electronic companies will announce technology for creating computer chips that can each hold a billion bits of information next February.

NEC and Hitachi say they have developed a way to make one gigabit



DRAMs, which will have enough capacity to hold the works of Shakespeare 10 times over, though they are unlikely to go on general sale until 1998.

Japan surprise

JAPAN, one of the world's most technologically advanced nations, has a problem finding school teachers who can use a computer, according to a survey by their education ministry.

It says that two thirds of Japan's 950,000 public-school teachers could not operate computers at their schools. Despite efforts to raise teachers' awareness of computers, the survey says there has only been a 4 per cent rise over the last year in the number of computer-literate teachers.

Film phone-in

REPORTERS for News channel 8, the cable TV channel based in Washington, will soon be able to send their video footage back to the station over mobile phones.

Once they have filmed an event the photojournalists will plug their traditional video cameras into a briefcase-size video compressor which converts the tape digitally onto a hard disc.

They then transmit the story via mobile phone to a desktop editing system in the station's newsroom.

Cottage treat

THE TELECOTTAGE Association is to hold a seminar on running a teleworking business on November 26 in Chester. Aimed at individual tele-

In-store discs

A WAY to give personal computer users a direct satellite link from businesses, software sellers and the Internet is under development by the US firm Hughes Network Systems. The DirecPC service will start in America early next year.

IBM says that it will use the system to deliver software. It envisages kiosks in retail stores where customers can select and receive a disc or CD-Rom containing software in minutes. The package, which includes a 24-inch dish and adapter card for a PC, is expected to cost around £1,000.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: mail_times@delphi.com

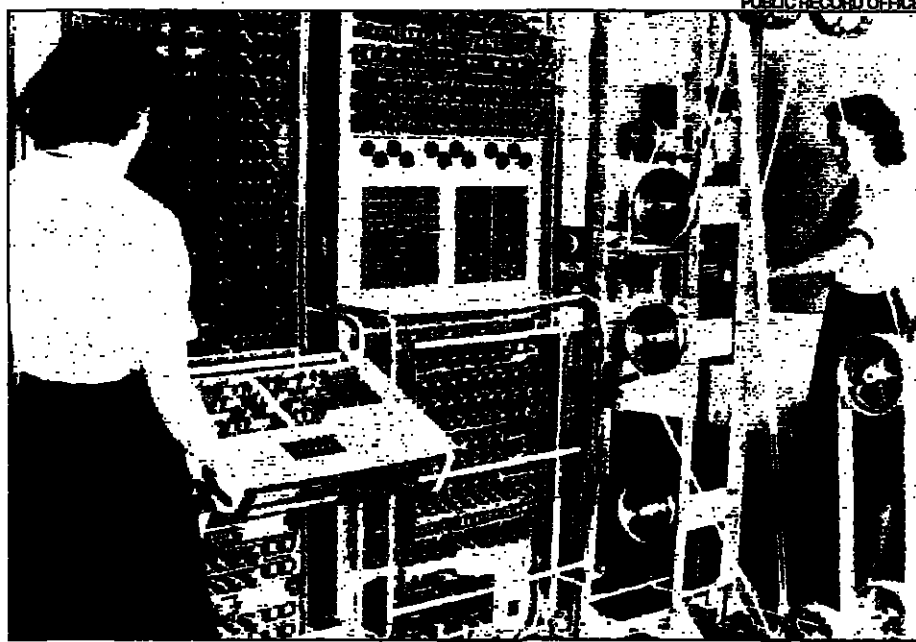
One man is rebuilding Britain's wartime codebreaking machine

If any other country had invented the world's first programmable electronic computer — and helped to save the world from Nazi domination in the process — the machine would probably have been preserved as a jewel of national achievement.

This being Britain, however, the machine, named Colossus, was smashed up, and is now being rebuilt by one man, working largely alone, with fast-disappearing resources and no official help. Despite this, Tony Sales, secretary of the Computer Conservation Society, is well advanced with his project and is now seeking corporate sponsors to support him in completing it as the centrepiece of Britain's first dedicated computer museum, which is planned for Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, the secret British centre of wartime codebreaking, where the Colossus machine first ran.

Early in the war, the Bletchley Park codebreakers, some of Britain's brightest mathematicians, broke Nazi codes by hand. As the war progressed, the intercepted messages became harder to crack and the mathematicians began to develop machines to help them. Colossus was the culmination of this work — the world's first electronic programmable computer, built to decipher the German army high command's most secret messages. It proved crucial in tracking German movements in preparation for the D-Day landings.

The importance of Colossus in computer development lies with Alan Turing, Bletchley Park's eccentric head codebreaker, Mr Sales says. When Mr Turing joined the National Physics Laboratory after



Wartime memory: two women operate the Colossus computer at Bletchley Park in its heyday

Colossus that cracked the Nazi's secrets

the war, he produced the designs for the ACE, the next link in computer evolution.

A total of 11 Colossus machines were built, and all were broken up when they became obsolete. Amazingly, the last one operated until 1958. "It was not a computer as we know it because it had no memory and it had no stored program," Mr Sales says. "The machines weighed about one ton each and were about as powerful as the smallest microchip."

Mr Sales first researched Colossus when he was studying the history of computing in order to rebuild a 1966 Pegasus computer at the Science Museum. Details of the machine's circuit diagrams were outlined by two of its original creators, Tony Flowers and Alan Coombs, in the *Transactions* journal of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. Mr Flowers once described Colossus as a "string and sealing-wax affair". Mr Sales also obtained the original diagrams, which are now on display at Bletchley Park.

The physical structure, however, is having to be reconstructed using photographs, and for this he turned to much more modern technology — a computer-aided design system.

Mr Sales was helped by the fact that he had amassed an extensive collection of early electrical equipment from his first career, in electronics. Colossus was based on standard Post Office telegraphy equipment — apart from the

photo-electric cells which worked as optical scanners to read the programming tape. These were manufactured during the war as proximity fuses for anti-aircraft shells, but found a better strategic purpose in Colossus. Mr Sales has found the original cells to use in the restoration project.

The reconstruction is an arduous task, like putting together a massive jigsaw without a picture to go by and with some of the pieces missing, he says. "Some of the pieces are also the wrong shape and just refuse to fit together. There are about nine miles of wire there."

Mr Sales hopes to get the bulk of the work done by Christmas — "but this is dependent on getting financial support". He is looking for a consortium of companies to commission him to finish the project. He will then donate the computer to the Bletchley Park Museum Trust as the centrepiece of the planned computer museum.

Bletchley Park is now partially open as a museum of codebreaking, and will open fully if the trust finally acquires the site next April, as planned.

JOHN NAISH

© Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes, is open to the public every other weekend — Nov 12-13, 26-27 and so on. Admission: £3. Further information: 0908 640404

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A new puritanism is looming in the computer industry. David Guest reports on why it may be closing time for lunchtime drinkers

The staff of the Kalamazoo Computer Group recently received a windfall bonus of £1.5 million to share in return for their contribution to excellent results. The one thing they are unlikely to fritter it away on is alcohol. Kalamazoo was founded by Quakers and is famous for its dry press events. The staff may also be among Computer Weekly's readers.

Why would readership of a weekly trade paper mark them out as candidates for the pledge? Because a Computer Weekly survey has found that information technology (IT) staff are well on the way to giving up lunchtime drinking en masse. The paper found in a reader survey that almost two in three have a drink at lunchtime no more than five or six times a year, and then usually at leaving parties.

The new sobriety among IT professionals is caused by anxiety about the effect of alcohol on work. More than 60 per cent, according to the survey, believe they can drink no more than two units before it affects them. A quarter think any alcohol would have an impact.

Over pressure from employers cannot be blamed. Fewer than a third of the companies surveyed ban alcohol from their premises. Prohibition may have come about in less obvious ways. One of the features of lean organisations emerging from recession is that

Two pints of orange juice, please

fewer people are expected to do more work, and usually over longer hours. A beer belly is visible evidence of recidivist tendencies: a dull afternoon hangover tends not to clear up without topping up as the day wears on. With regular sackings having become a feature of many IT installations, staff must be expected to avoid the red nose.

The drift away from alcohol may also be explained by the obsession with healthy living. But the mixed news that moderate amounts of alcohol — say, two or three units a day for adult males — might actually be good for you, and a World Health Organisation report this week that any alcohol is bad for you, could throw the IT profession into confusion.

It is hardly to be expected that three units taken one after another

can be as good for you as three units spaced evenly through the day — one at breakfast, one at lunch, one with the evening meal.

People who accept a drink at lunchtime will panic at the prospect of alcohol with the muesli but computing is, after all, a job in which a logical mind is supposed to be a prime requirement.

Historically, computer operators were associated more often than programmers with immoderate drinking because of their antisocial office hours. Systems analysts also had a reputation as *bon viveurs*, but as trend followers they may have led the move to abstinence.

Computer specialists generally have gone through a series of re-orientations about social drinking. Initially, they belonged to the boffin class and were capable of achieving

a modest rush from the smell of solder. Later, as computing became a feature of many companies' operations, software development staff formed a distinctive kind of alternative culture. Many had beards, scuffed shoes and a nose for real ale. The demands of brain work were such that regular if not heavy drinking was looked on as a necessity.

Now that computing has spread to end-users, software development specialists regularly rub shoulders with more conventional business colleagues — and convention appears to be coming out ahead. But the survey did find one aspect of drinking given approval. "Several (respondents) suggested that drinking could help to build team spirit in the computer department, or between computing people and the business users of their systems."

Even that is not a reliable benefit. I used to work for a publisher who would call a halt to toil most Friday afternoons to break out the booze. "The office that plays together stays together," he would gaily pronounce. A couple of glasses later he would throw his arm round someone's shoulder and, with some slurring, casually point out that it was in his power to sack them on the spot. It was an alarming illustration of the power of alcohol to impair team-building.



Goodbye to all that? City staff enjoy a lunchtime pint in a London pub

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RESOURCES

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- Workstations: Operating Systems, configurations (mainly PCs, DOS, Windows);
- Standard applications, excluding only bespoke and department-specific applications.

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Physical Network Management: Co-ordinator

Dealing with all aspects of the physical network, cable/fibre, hubs, bridges, routers, LAN and WAN connectivity, and the associated protocols and management systems, the postholder will line manage and co-ordinate the activities of:

- 5 Network Managers attached to the on-site Support Teams
- Network planners concerned with capacity planning, multimedia integration, and new implementations
- A planning, record keeping and standards maintenance team (Ref: 17034/T)

Network Systems Co-ordinator

Dealing with the networking software aspect of servers and hosts, user and network administration, security, backup processes, the postholder will line manage and co-ordinate the activities of:

- 5 Network Systems Managers and up to 9 Assistants, attached to the on-site Support Teams
- Network System Planners concerned with security, contingency and disaster planning, new implementations (Ref: 17033/T)

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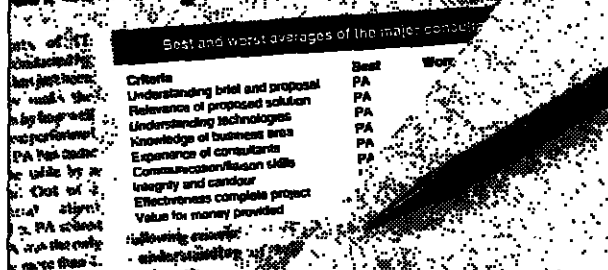
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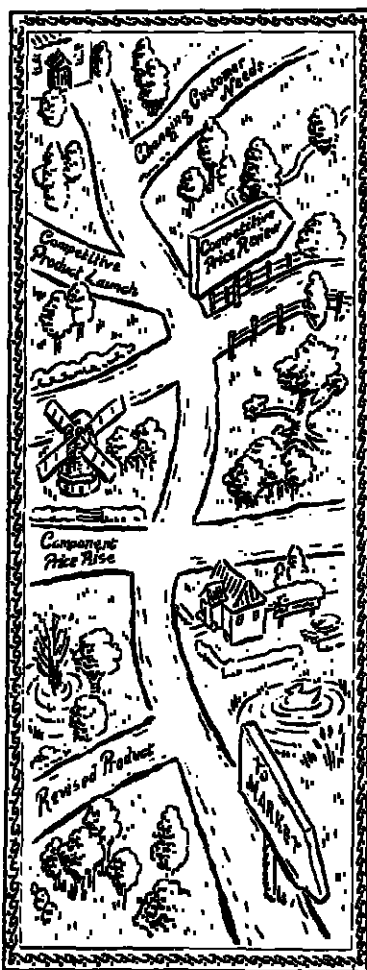
Your brief will involve a high level of customer interfacing and will cover the whole marketing mix, from the identification of customer needs, product development to forecasting and the monitoring and promotion of stock.

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The modern PC need not be too difficult for the elderly — and it can open up a new world, says David Hewson

Old boys' and girls' network

The world of technology positively brims over with unshakable axioms. Personal computers are never as fast as the advertisements make out, hard discs always crash in the end, and anyone who is rash enough to buy version 1.0 of a piece of software solely on what it says in the trade magazines surely deserves everything he is going to get.

Add to this one final certainty: old people and technology do not mix. Asking a pensioner to get to grips with the complexities of Microsoft Windows makes as much sense as offering him a keyboard synthesiser and a place in the local rock band.

This belief is almost universally accepted. Yet all the evidence available suggests it is wholly inaccurate, and that, given the opportunity and training, age is no bar to mastery of the modern PC.

One of the most experienced academics in the field of technology and older people is Dr Mary Furlong, Professor of Education at the University of San Francisco and founder of the first online network for the over-55s, Senior Net, which now has almost 14,000 members in America and Canada.

In the early Eighties, when computers were much more difficult to learn than they are today, Dr Furlong ran a series of computer-literacy workshops for older people which eventually turned into a

book, *Computers for Kids over Sixty*.

She now believes more firmly than ever that the older generation suffers from no inherent handicap in mastering the PC, and may have strong social reasons to look to technology as a way of creating a living online community of contacts and friends at a time when conventional social links are shrinking. "It may take them longer to type on the keyboard, but they grasp the concepts just as easily as the younger generation," she says.

Senior Net is a non-profit-making organisation for older people which runs an online network through the large America Online organisation and a series of computer classes in more than 60 local learning centres throughout North America.

The initial funding for the project came from the Markle Foundation, one of the original backers of the Children's Television Workshop, producers of the ground-breaking *Sesame Street* show which mixes entertainment with education. Dr Furlong hopes that one day Senior Net will do for older people what *Sesame Street* has achieved for children.

The network is as much about socialising as it is computing. Poetry, recipes, and comment run through various discussion groups. Each Wednesday evening is given over to a network "cocktail party"



Keeping in touch through the keyboard: two senior citizens join the online community and "talk" via their PCs

open to all-comers. Dr Furlong knows of at least one online romance: a 77-year-old man in Nevada, widowed after 49 years, found a new partner after what started as a network chat.

Senior Net has its more serious side, too. The learning centres offer courses in word processing, database management, spreadsheets and telecommunications. The online network has a Generation to Generation area where schools collaborate with members on projects such as the Second

World War or the Great Depression, hearing stories about the period from people who lived through the times they are studying.

Online counselling, for loneliness, medical problems and even through terminal illnesses is another common activity, and can cross generations.

Demographics may make the aged potential prime users of online communications in the future. The US Census Bureau forecasts that the proportion of



Americans aged 55 or older will rise from 21 per cent of the US population in 1989 to nearly a third by 2020.

The proportion of the population over 65 is expected to double between 1980 and 2000. A number of medical organisations are now working on the idea of telemedicine — networks which allow for diagnosis and progress checking of patients through a computer network.

But for many older people the benefits of the PC may be simply

that it helps to replace the conventional nuclear family structure which has disintegrated over the past 30 years.

"People travel around in their cars, watch the television and visit shopping malls. Many people do not know their neighbours and there are very few front porches," says Dr Furlong. "Senior Net provides older people with a new window on the world. It allows them to meet new friends, learn new ideas and wander into the vast world of the Internet."

A pinch of salt

Statistics on home PCs may be misleading

NOW that the entire personal computer industry is apparently converging on our homes, surveys on what the demand is likely to be become far more important, writes Geoff Wheelwright.

Compaq, IBM, Apple, Packard-Bell and dozens of other computer makers are convinced there will be big sales around the Christmas period. Compaq, in particular, has been seduced by the idea that it can make lots of sales in Britain and America.

As part of its recent launch of new Presario personal computers for the home market, the company cited statistics from the research company Dataquest which suggested that nearly 2.5 million PCs will be sold to European homes during 1994 — a fifth of the total PC sales for the year.

Some recent reports from America suggest, however, that analysts may have overblown their estimates of PCs already in use. One study by Odyssey Homefront suggested that only 27 per cent of American homes have a PC, less than the 35 per cent used as a rule by many in the computer industry.

The company suggests that far too many market researchers will count the legions of old Commodore 64s and Apple IIs that gather dust in attics and wardrobes as part of their numbers. In Britain, the assessment would equally apply to elderly Sinclair Spectrums and Amstrad CPCs.

Television widens its horizons

Japanese consumers have fallen in love with wide-screen televisions, and nobody is celebrating the romance more than Japanese electronics makers.

"They're really selling well. Sports fans, movie fans and couples who get married and buy their first consumer durables are our best customers," said a salesman at Maruzen Musen, in Akiba, Tokyo's discount electronics district.

The boom is a relief for Japan's dispirited electronics giants, which are generally faced with low sales and plummeting prices for cheaper audio-visual goods.

"Widescreens are very important to electronics makers," said Katsuhiko Sugiyama, an analyst at Merrill Lynch. "The price of a widescreen is double that of an ordinary television, but they cost only 20 per cent more to make."

Japanese sales for 1994 are expected to rise to 1.5 million units, compared with 300,000

Widescreen TVs, like the one pictured right, are saving makers from the doldrums



has released a small 16in-wide screen model for the space and price-conscious.

"More than anything, people have realised that the wider format is much easier on the eyes," says Sony. Also,

unlike high-definition television (HDTV), widescreen televisions are proving popular on price.

HDTVs were previously heralded as the next best-selling television, but their hefty price — the latest models still sell at about 900,000 yen (£5,500) — failed to ignite significant consumer interest. By contrast, an average widescreen set can be bought for £920.

Satellite channels are already broadcasting in the 16 to 19 inch format in Japan and many ordinary channels plan to start broadcasting in EDTV-II (extended definition television-II), another widescreen format, from mid-1995.

The widescreen market was originally the domain of smaller television makers such as Toshiba, Sharp and Sanyo. Heavyweights Sony and Matsushita, which had concentrated on HDTVs, were too late for the important end-of-year season last year.

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Trustee's duty when challenged

Alsop Wilkinson v Neary and Others
Before Mr Justice Lightman
[Judgment October 25]

A trustee against whom hostile litigation had been brought challenging the validity of a settlement did not have a duty to defend the trust but rather was obliged to remain neutral and offer to submit to the court's directions leaving it to the rival claimants to the property to fight their battles.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, when delivering a reserved judgment in open court, after a hearing in chambers, dismissing the summons of (i) Elizabeth Mary Le Poidevin, (ii) Geoffrey William Fisher, and (iii) Alsop Trustees (Jersey) Ltd, trustees of property settled upon them by the first defendant, Anthony Neary, seeking directions whether or not to defend an action brought by the plaintiff, Alsop Wilkinson, for an order under section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986 setting aside the trust.

Miss Sonia Proudman, QC, for the trustees; Miss Lindsey Stewart for the plaintiff; Mr Robert Sterling for the first defendant.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN

said that the trustees had issued a summons in the plaintiff's action seeking directions whether or not to defend the plaintiff's action, in effect a *Beddoe* application (1893) 1 Ch 547.

The beneficiaries under the trusts were the settlor's wife, who had threatened proceedings for breach of trust if the trustees failed to defend the action, infants and unborn persons.

His Lordship said that trustees might be involved in three types of dispute:

1 A "trust dispute", namely one as to the trust on which they held the subject matter of the settlement which might be friendly, for example, the true construction of the trust instrument, or hostile, for example, a challenge as to the validity of the settlement.

2 A "beneficiaries dispute", namely one with one or more of the beneficiaries as to the propriety of any action which the trustees had taken or omitted to take and

3 A "third party dispute", namely one with persons other than beneficiaries in respect of rights and liabilities, for example, in contract or tort, assumed by the trustees in the course of administration of the trust.

Trustees were entitled to an indemnity against all costs, ex-

penses and liabilities properly incurred in administering a trust and of the costs of proceedings properly brought or defended for the benefit of the trust estate but were well advised to seek the court's authorisation before suing or defending.

The form of application for such authorisation was a separate action to which all the beneficiaries were parties, either in person or by a representative defendant.

As to the role of trustees in a trust dispute, the trustees had relied on the decision of Mr Justice Kekewich in *Island Bedding Co Ltd v Holland* (1907) 2 Ch 157 where the plaintiffs had obtained against the trustees an order declaring the settlement void as against the plaintiffs and other creditors and the question arose whether one of the trustees who had defended the action ought to have his costs out of the trust estate.

Mr Justice Kekewich had held that the trustee had a duty to defend the trust as he did and that, as a matter of discretion, he should have his costs.

His Lordship did not think that the view expressed by Mr Justice Kekewich in the case of a trust dispute a trustee had a duty to defend the trust was correct or in accordance with modern authority.

In a case where the dispute was between rival claimants to a beneficial interest in the subject matter of the trust, the duty of the trustee was, rather, to remain neutral and offer to submit to the court's directions leaving it to the rivals to fight their battles.

The costs necessarily and properly incurred, for example, in serving a defence, agreeing to submit to the court's direction and in making discovery, would entitle the trustees to an indemnity and lien.

The present application had been brought by means of a summons in the plaintiff's action which was not an appropriate course. A *Beddoe* application had to be made in separate proceedings first, because it would involve disclosure to the court and other parties to the plaintiff's action of the trustees' case and the views of the trustees and beneficiaries as to prospects of success and second, to ensure that all necessary parties to the application were before the court.

In the present case, the beneficiaries were not parties to the plaintiff's action. His Lordship would therefore refuse the trustees' application for directions.

Solicitors: Rowe & Maw; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Pamone & Partners.

Shocked and Another v Goldschmidt and Another
Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Morritt
[Judgment November 1]

A party who chose not to be present at trial made an election by which she should be bound in the absence of special circumstances, so that she was not entitled to a re-trial.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the first and second defendants, Martin Goldschmidt and Cooking Vinyl Ltd, against an order made on November 12, 1993 by Mr Justice Sher, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on an application under Order 35, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court by the plaintiffs, Michelle Shocked and Five Corners Ltd, to set aside orders of Mr Lyndon Stanford, QC, made on November 19, 1992, following a trial in the absence of the plaintiffs of the defendants' counter-claim in a dispute relating to music contracts.

The third defendant, Seidler Sedley Williams, a firm, was not involved in the appeal.

Mr Kevin Garnett, QC, for the defendants; Mr Robert Englehart, QC and Mr Javan Herberg for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said Mr Goldschmidt had been Ms Shocked's agent but she had purported to terminate his contract and issued a writ claiming damages for breach of fiduciary duty and consequent declarations.

Her claim had been dismissed before trial for failure to provide security for costs but the defendants' counter-claim had succeeded at trial before Mr Lyndon Stanford.

The plaintiffs had failed to appear at the trial and had made no attempt to ask for an adjournment. His Lordship reviewed the authorities on setting aside judgment after trial and from them derived the following propositions:

1 Where a party with notice proceedings has disregarded the opportunity of appearing at and participating in the trial, he would normally be bound by that decision.

2 Where judgment was given after a full trial, the explanation for the absence of the absent party that was most important: unless the absence was not deliberate but was

due to accident or mistake, the court would be unlikely to allow a re-hearing.

3 Where the setting aside of judgment would entail a complete re-trial on matters of fact which had already been investigated by the court, the application would not be granted unless there were very strong reasons for doing so.

4 The court would not consider setting aside judgment regularly obtained unless the party applying showed real prospects of success.

5 Delay in applying to set aside was relevant, particularly if during the period of delay the successful party had acted on the judgment, or third parties had acquired rights by reference to it.

6 In considering justice between parties, the conduct of the person applying to set aside the judgment had to be considered: where he had failed to comply with orders of the court, the court would be less likely to exercise its discretion in his favour.

7 A material consideration was whether the successful party would be prejudiced by the judgment being set aside, especially if he could not be protected against the financial consequences.

8 There was a public interest in there being an end to litigation and in not having the time of the court

occupied by two trials, particularly if neither was short.

Contrasting cases concerning setting aside of judgment in default with cases in which there had been a trial in the absence of one of the parties. It seemed to his Lordship that whereas in the first the court was primarily concerned to see whether there was a defence on the merits, in the second the predominant consideration was the reason why the party absented himself against whom judgment was given.

The judge had erred in principle. It was heretofore to equate judgments in default with judgments given after a trial. If it were correct so to do, a party who chose not to be present at trial could afterwards change his mind, and provided he was prepared to pay the costs thrown away could always procure a re-hearing of the matter; however much time of the court had been wasted by his decision, whatever the inconvenience to his opponent, and however little his own conduct merited censure.

That was not the law. Because it was not, the Court of Appeal had to exercise the discretion anew.

When she had buried her head in the sand, Ms Shocked had made an election by which she should be bound, in default of special circumstances. There were none. Her explanation for non-attendance showed it was deliberate and even if she was in personal difficulties, she did not explain why no application could have been made for an adjournment.

A re-trial would require the court to spend a further ten days hearing the proceedings in addition to four days when judgment was first given, five days on the application to set aside, and one day in the Court of Appeal.

So far from finding that Ms Shocked enjoyed real prospects of success in a re-trial, the judge had merely found that "there must be a reasonable prospect of making some impact by way of defence". The fact that delay was not excessive did not count positively in her favour.

Her conduct before and after judgment had been unimpressive and the suggestion that the court should devote further ten days to proceedings in which it had already made an adjudication was wholly contrary to the public interest.

The appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Morritt agreed.

Solicitors: Mackenzie Mills, Denton Hall.

Under-age tobacco acquittal justified

Hereford and Worcester County Council v T & S Stores plc
Before Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Buxton
[Judgment October 17]

Justices were entitled to acquit defendants of a charge under section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, as amended, even though there were other things which the defendants could have done to try to avoid the commission of the offence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal brought by the prosecution, Hereford and Worcester County Council, against the dismissal by Reddick Justices on September 2, 1993 of an information against the defendants, T & S Stores plc.

Section 7 of the 1933 Act, as amended by section 1 of the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, provides: "Any person who sells to

a person under the age of 16 years any tobacco... shall be liable to a fine."

Section 7(1A), as inserted by the 1991 Act, provides: "It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence... to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence."

Mr Patrick Darby for the prosecution; Mr David Travers for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE BUXTON said that representatives from the county council's trading standards department had instructed a girl aged 12 to purchase cigarettes from Supergrids in Bromsgrove, a shop owned by the defendants. She purchased the cigarettes from an assistant who was an employee of the defendants.

The justices found that the assistant was not supervised at the time of the sale; that the staff

employed at Supergrids had been advised of the law as to the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of 16 in that they had been given written instructions by way of bulletins to their staff advising a procedure to be followed if their staff doubted that a person was over the age of 16; at the time of the sale the assistant was aware of the law and the written instructions which had been provided; that the defendants provided each of their outlets with a procedures manual which was updated on a weekly basis which the store manager at each outlet was required to ensure that the staff read and the area manager checked on a regular basis.

The justices were of the opinion that, on the balance of probabilities, the defendants' procedure was sufficient to ensure that, at the point of sale, the assistant who sold the cigarettes knew the law; that the defendants had taken all reasonable steps to ensure that

members of their staff were aware that sales should not be made to persons under the age of 16 and that the defendants could not be held responsible for the sale. Accordingly the justices acquitted the defendants.

Mr Darby submitted that a simple additional precaution of placing a notice on the till for all assistants to read and then of the law could have been taken and that once it was established that there were other precautions which could have been taken, the defendants could not be said to have made out the defence in section 7(1A).

In his Lordship's judgment, the decision of the justices could not be said to be perverse and the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Beldam delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Roger Yates, Worcester; Edge & Ellison, Birmingham.

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Artificial arraignment to evade time limit impermissible

In re Hollstein Regina v Maidstone Crown Court, Ex parte Hollstein
Before Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Gage
[Judgment October 13]

It was not permissible for the crown court artificially to create an arraignment situation merely to evade custody time limits and where the crown court had done so, the Divisional Court had the duty and the power to interfere.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when quashing the decision of Judge Wiley, QC, at Maidstone Crown Court on July 27, 1994, to remand the applicant, Andrew Hollstein, in custody.

His Lordships ordered that the applicant be produced for trial at Maidstone Crown Court on October 14, 1994.

The applicant had been arrested in January 1994 and had been in custody since January 20. He was committed for trial on a single count of arson on March 24. His custody time limit was due to expire on July 14 but was properly extended until July 22 when it expired.

The applicant remained in custody and was brought before the crown court on July 27, when he was arraigned and further remanded in custody.

Mr James Turner for the applicant; Mr Nicholas Ainley for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said that what had happened amounted to artificially creating an arraignment situation.

The High Court could not permit a crown court, either on its own motion or on an application by the

prosecution, artificially to create an arraignment situation with the intention of depriving the defendant of the expiry of their permission, without the defendant's consent, to adhere to the custody time limits.

His Lordship added that he was persuaded by defence counsel's submission that the arraignment was a mere sham, since no trial had been fixed and the only purpose served by the arraignment was to foil the provisions of the Bail Act 1976.

MR JUSTICE GAGE agreed, added that where an arraignment took place merely to defeat an accused's right to bail, that amounted to a matter other than that relating to trial on indictment, for the purposes of section 29(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Solicitors: Barry & Berry, Tunbridge Wells; Treasury Solicitor.

Prejudice to developers after local plan change only speculative

Mackenzie's Trustees v Highland Regional Council
Before Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Cowie and Lord Macfadyen
[Judgment September 23]

Where planning permission had been granted for a commercial development of a site, and the planning authority subsequently adopted a local plan which provided that that site should be kept as open space and that another nearby site should be used for such commercial purposes, but the plan contained no reasoned justification of its failure to take into account the possibility that the earlier planning permission would be implemented, there was nevertheless no substantial prejudice to the owners of the first site for the possibility that, if the permission were to expire without being implemented, the authority would be unlikely to grant it afresh, was merely speculative and there were accordingly no grounds for suspending the operation of the plan pending an appeal against its adoption.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing a motion by the trustees of the late David Fraser Mackenzie for suspension *ad interim* of the operation of the replacement local plan for the area of Inverness, Culloden and Ardersier adopted by Highland Regional Council on April 21, 1994, pending determination by the court of an appeal by the trustees under section 232 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972 against the adoption of the plan.

Section 232 provides: "(1) If any person aggrieved by a... local plan... desires to question the validity of the plan... he may... make an application to the Court of Session."

"(2) On any application under this section the Court of Session—(a) may by interim order wholly or in part suspend the operation of [a] plan... until the final determination of the proceedings; (b) if satisfied that the plan... is wholly or to any extent outside the powers conferred by Part II of this Act, or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply with any requirement of the said Part II or

of any regulations made thereunder, may wholly or in part quash the plan..."

Mr James McNeill, QC, for the appellants; Mr Christopher Haddow, QC, and Mr Alan McLean for Highland Regional Council; Mr Duncan Menzies, QC, for Narden Services Ltd.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the appellants owned land in respect of which planning permission for commercial development had been granted in 1991. The replacement local plan of April 1994 allocated another nearby site for such use, while the appellants' land had been allocated by the plan for recreational use.

Narden Services had now applied for planning permission for a commercial development, similar to that proposed by the appellants, on the nearby site. The question of an interim order such as that sought by the appellants had ultimately to depend on the balance of convenience. But regard had to be had also to the relative strength of the cases put forward by each party. See *N W 1 Ltd v Woods* (1979) 1 WLR 1294, 1310 per Lord Fraser of Tullybelton.

That was necessary because such an order would affect the interests of the public as well as those of the parties. It might be relatively easy to assess where the balance of convenience lay as between the appellants and the developers of the competing site.

The various factors affecting the public interest were more difficult to identify. But it was clear that the public interest lay in allowing the plan to take effect, as all the statutory procedures for its preparation and adoption had been completed and no direction had been made by the secretary of state that it was not to take effect unless approved by him.

So the question whether it was in the public interest for the plan to be suspended until the appellants' case was heard was to be determined by an assessment of the strength of the competing arguments for and against quashing the contested parts of the plan.

The court was satisfied that the appellants were "persons aggrieved" for the purposes of section 232(1) (see *Attorney-General of The Gambia v NFFE* (1961) AC 617, 639 per Lord Denning).

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Irvine pursues appointment with success

Oliver Holt charts the rapid development of a racing driver regarded by some as the wild man of Formula One

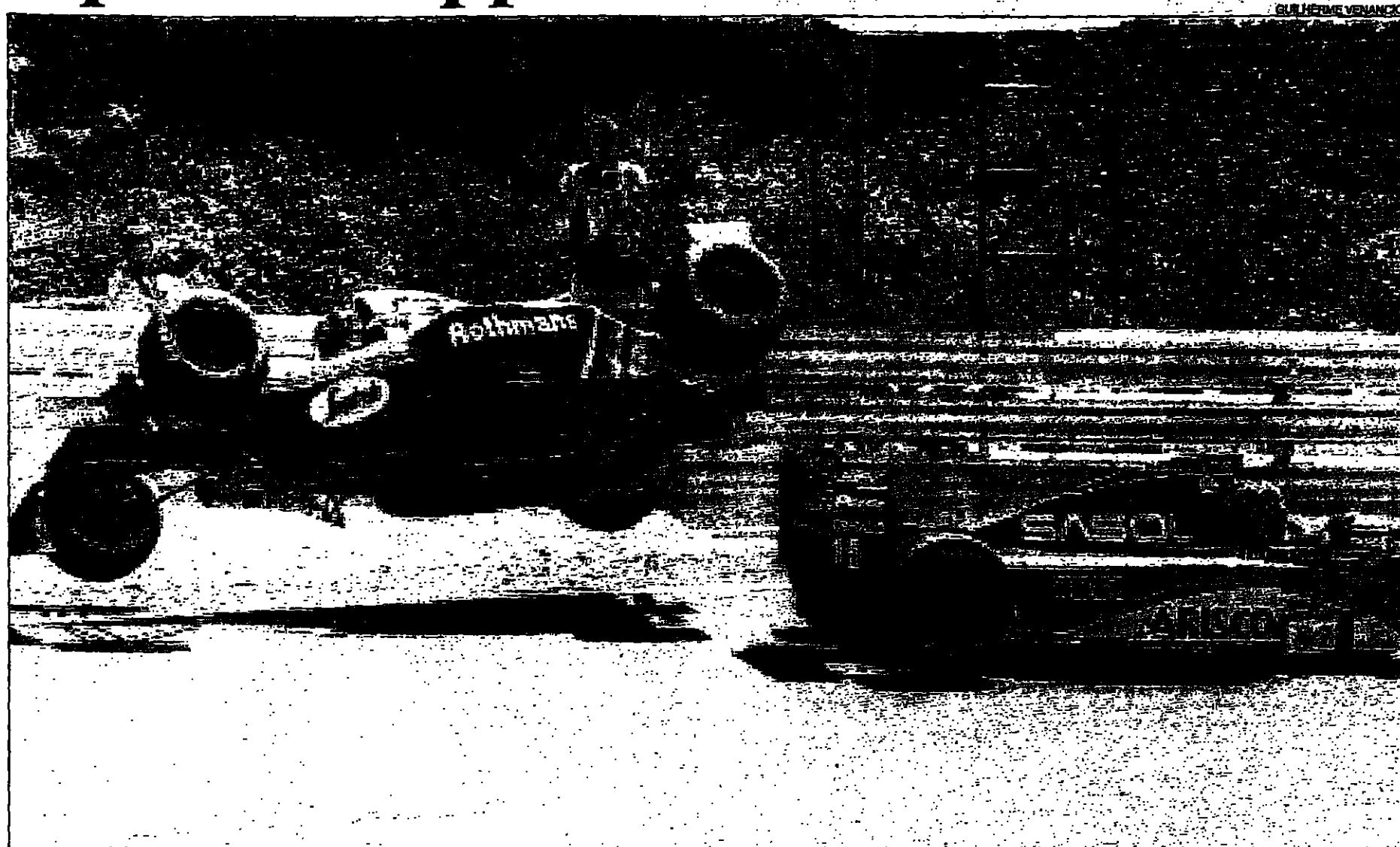
Two things are worrying Eddie Irvine as he sits in the lobby of the President Hotel, looking over his shoulder at the door as the restaurant fills up for lunch. The girl he is supposed to be meeting is late and the Australian High Commission in London has lost his passport. Then the girl turns up and the passport problem seems to ebb away.

Irvine is a friend of the Irish Ambassador to Japan. He took him to his favourite Tokyo nightclub earlier this week and the owner seated them both at the table he reserves for the Jordan driver. The Ambassador watched as a stream of Japanese women admirers laid siege to the table. He was impressed, Irvine says. He might be able to help with the passport.

Irvine, after all, is big in Japan, bigger here than anywhere else except his adopted home, Dublin. He made his name here, driving in the Japanese F3000 Series, using the President Hotel as a base for weekends on the town before he flew back to his house in Macao. Last year, he made his grand prix debut in the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka, finished sixth and hit the headlines when Ayrton Senna punched him after the race, exasperated with his tactics.

Since then Irvine, 28, who was born in Newtonards, in Northern Ireland, has rarely been out of the news. This season began in the worst way when he was blamed for causing a spectacular four-car crash in the Brazilian Grand Prix and suspended for one race by the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA). When Jordan appealed against the ban, it was increased to three races.

At the Italian Grand Prix in September, he braked too late going into the first corner, ran



Hill's Williams-Renault lifts into the air and somersaults into a gravel pit after being shunted by Irvine, below right, during practice for the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril.

into the back of Johnny Herbert's Lotus and caused a pile-up that meant the race had to be re-started. In the run-up to the next race in Portugal, he spun during practice and slewed across the track, touching Damon Hill's Williams-Renault and launching it upside down into a gravel trap. Then, to round off his year he was banned from the roads for two weeks last week after pleading guilty to driving his Ferrari at 106mph on the M6 in Cumbria in March without an MOT or valid tax disc. The problem of his absent passport which would put the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide

next week out of bounds if it does not show up, seems a trifle by comparison. The cumulative effect of this catalogue of mishaps and misdemeanours has been to land Irvine with a reputation as Formula One's wild man, a dangerous and irresponsible Maverick. His natural irreverence has done little to help his cause with the establishment. He turned up at one of his many appearances before the FIA in Paris dressed in jeans and a t-shirt. Some have urged Jordan to jettison him as the team continues its heavy progress towards the top of the grid. But

their regime is more flexible, more human than many others. They have stuck by him and he has repaid them. He has run neck and neck with his team-mate, the brilliant young Brazilian, Rubens Barrichello, all season in qualifying, pushing him to the limits of his talent. Three weeks ago, at the European Grand Prix in Jerez, Irvine came good in a race, too, finishing fourth. More than that, he represents a strand of a lifetime for a sport demoted of many of its established stars and top-heavy with young drivers schooled to speak in platitudes. Many of those most critical of Irvine are the same observers who bemoan the current lack of personalities in grand prix racing.

Certhard Berger does much the same and they love him for it. Beyond his brash exterior, Irvine is a successful businessman and an articulate speaker. "The fact that most of the drivers come across as boring is the fault of the team managers," Irvine said. "They want them to be like that. I'm lucky in that I've got Ian Phillips who is the last of the hippies. As long as you do your job on the track, that is the important thing. If you don't enjoy your

self you can't do a good job." It seems almost certain that he will drive for Jordan again next season when the team will be strengthened by Peugeot engines. In the meantime, he insists Sunday's race with its memories of last year holds no terrors for him. "To be honest, my abiding memory of that weekend was that there was a great party after the race," he said. "The thing with Senna was nothing. It was no big deal. The guy was second to none as a driver but he was a bit of a weirdo. All I remember is that a few hours after he hit me I'd had quite a lot to drink."



Hill fears collision course for world title ambitions

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN SUZUKA, JAPAN

DAMON Hill last night drew on historical precedent to warn that his championship showdown with Michael Schumacher, here on Sunday, would be a battle between "desperate men" with caution thrown to the wind and dirty tricks a real possibility. "Twice in successive years, Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost collided with each other on the first lap at this track as they strove for the title. In 1989, Prost was the benefactor, in 1990, it was Senna, after whom this year's race is named, who won the championship."

Hill, who trails Schumacher by five points with only two races to go, has to win here to retain a realistic chance of clinching the title at the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide next week. His worry is that the young German need have no fear of a collision that would end the race for both of them.

Hill underlined his fear by sighting the misfortune suffered by his father, Graham, in 1964 Mexican Grand Prix when he was bundled off the track by Lorenzo Bandini and lost the world championship to John Surtees by a point.

"Sometimes the temptation of a championship overcomes people," he said. "I have done enough motor racing to know that drivers are desperate men and when it comes to the championship, anything has got to be expected."

"If Michael wins here and I do not finish, he is world champion. It is not necessarily important for me to finish the race. I am not accusing him of being a driver who would deliberately become entangled with me because it might be in his best interests but anything is possible. For me, this is crunch time. I have to win."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Faldo returns to more familiar leading role

NICK Faldo enjoyed a long-awaited return to form yesterday when he secured a share of the lead with a four-under-par 67 after the opening round of the Alfred Dunhill Masters at the Bali Golf and Country Club in Indonesia. Alongside the Briton, who has endured a disappointing 1994, were Mike Cuning, of the United States, Terry Gale, from Australia, and Krishna Singh, of Fiji, the elder brother of Vijay Singh.

Colin Montgomerie's form, after a season in which he topped the Volvo Order of Merit in Europe, remained impressive as he finished just one shot behind the leaders.

Bertrand strikes again

YACHTING: oneAustralia, skippered by John Bertrand, is expected to clinch the America's Cup world championship with a race to spare after recovering from a false start yesterday to chalk up a third successive win in the series (Barry Pickhail writes). In testing 15-knot winds, oneAustralia beat the all-women crew on America*, who were second, despite reaching the first mark almost two minutes behind the leaders.

England reward Mann

BADMINTON: Julia Mann, 23, from Solihull, has been rewarded for several outstanding recent performances by inclusion in the England team to play against Germany at Lancaster on November 22. England also include Darren Hall, the former European champion, who has been suffering from a back injury that had, at one stage, threatened his career through most of 1994.

Whitaker calls the tune

EQUESTRIANISM: Everest Twostep lived up to his name yesterday by exhibiting some extremely nimble footwork to win the opening class of the Volvo World Cup Show in Amsterdam for his rider, Michael Whitaker, by just seven hundredths of a second from Wout Jan van der Schans, of Holland. It was the gelding's first outing since the Glasgow Masters one month ago.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

HUPA

(b) A tribe of Athapascan Indians in California, a member of this tribe, also their language, from the Yurok *hupó* Hupa, ie from the name for this tribe in the language of their neighbours, the Yurok. "It would be of benefit not only to the Government but to the Hupa Indians, if their reservation were abandoned."

MAGLEV

(a) Magnetic levitation, also *mag-lev*, an abbreviation of *magnetised levitation*. "The Canadian program is aimed at the development of maglev vehicles which will travel at 300 miles an hour, carrying about 100 passengers each."

NOMISMA

(b) Another name for the bezant, a Byzantine coin, from the Greek *nomisma* money, *nomis* to use customarily, *nomos* usage, custom. "Nomisma, the gold coin of the later Byzantine Empire. Usually scyphate in form with types of the Emperor, Christ, the Virgin and saints."

LUNTAR

(c) A palm-leaf manuscript, also a manuscript written on leaves of this palm, from the Malay word, *luntar* to use customarily, *luntar* usage, custom. "In Singapore there is a library of these manuscripts, where are preserved some splendid old lontars with illustrations. These are masterpieces of the art of illustration, with miniature pictures incised with an iron style on the blades of the lontar palm."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nxb1; Kh8 (if 1... g6h6 2 Qxd4 d4 3 Rxd4 and White wins easily) 2 Qxf6 gxf6 3 Bxf6 mate.

Government fails to administer promised medicine

The Government has again failed to take the necessary steps to eradicate drug abuse in sport and recreational body-building. The legislation, announced by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, this week at least brings anabolic steroids under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. In future, it will be an offence for anyone to have "an intent to supply" hormone drugs. Suppliers could face up to five years in prison and an unlimited fine on indictment in a crown court, but a maximum of only three months in prison and a £2,500

fine. There is already legislation in place for the jailing of vendors of anabolic steroids. One example is the case of Steve Pines, the 1982 Commonwealth Games weightlifting champion and a link in an international chain of dealers involving David Jenkins, the former Olympic athlete. In November 1989, Pines was jailed at Aylesbury Crown Court for three months. He was prosecuted under the 1968 Medicines Act, which makes it an offence to supply prescribed drugs without a licence. Many of the legal actions under the Medicines Act against traffickers in anabolic

steroids have suffered because the prosecutors had to prove that a dealer had actually supplied the drugs. The new legislation is an advance because this proof is no longer required. Instead, the problem will be to show that there is "an intent to supply". This should work when there are huge quantities of drugs involved. However, anyone found to have a moderate amount in his possession will still argue that the drugs are for personal

use and therefore be able to escape conviction. The loophole in the battle against anabolic steroids could have been closed, if only the Home Office had done what it originally promised to do in September 1988, under great pressure from Colin Moynihan, then Minister for Sport. That was to make it a criminal offence for people to possess anabolic steroids unless they had a prescription for the drugs. The drugs do have clinical uses, such as to help

seriously undernourished children or old people to increase their bodyweight. Although Members' Campaign, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on sport, has tried repeatedly to get support for his Private Members' Bill, making possession a criminal offence, the Government has again refused to budge. The use of anabolic steroids in Britain is increasing, with 50,000 estimated users. It is more prevalent in the hundreds of gymnasiums in the country rather than at the elite level of national sport, where competitors are frequently subjected to dope tests. In many body-building gymnasts, there is no testing and abuse is rife. This has resulted in some people having suffered severe illness or death after consuming massive quantities of the drugs. There are also harmful psychological effects of taking anabolic steroids. Sir Arthur Gold, the former chairman of the British Olympic Association and a crusader against drug abuse, yesterday summed up the feeling of many campaigners. "This is a step in the right direction," Sir Arthur said. "But I am disappointed that the Government has not made possession, without a medical prescription, a criminal offence."

Moorer takes on dual task

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

WHEN Michael Moorer defends his International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association heavyweight titles at the MGM Grand Garden here tomorrow, his main task will not be to beat George Foreman, but himself. The champion is insecure psychologically and every time he steps into the ring it is a question of whether his concentration will outlast his opponent. Luckily for him, all but five of his 35 opponents have gone quickly.

When he challenged Evander Holyfield in April, his trainer, Teddy Atlas, had to goad him into action in the middle of the bout, telling him: "If you don't want to fight, come out, and I'll finish the job for you." The problem could surface again once Moorer catches sight of the big man in the other corner, and Foreman is more imposing that most. This was on Atlas's mind when he summoned Moorer to Palm Springs for a nine-week camp, rather than the usual six or eight. Trainer and boxer appear to

have the situation under control. But from the tension generated at the final press conference yesterday, when Foreman began to act up, asking "the kid to speak for himself," it was clear that Moorer's mental state was delicately balanced.

The champion, who had sat with his head down and eyes shaded with the peak of his baseball cap, had to be given instructions by Atlas on what to do when he lost his piece. He had to look Foreman in the eye - without his dark glasses.

Atlas said that the trainer-boxer relationship, which had been difficult to establish when he first met Moorer for the Holyfield bout, was working well. For that bout, just to show him an undisciplined boxer who was the boss, Atlas had changed Moorer's running time from six o'clock in the evening to six in the morning and had encountered some resistance. But this time, when "to show him [Moorer] that we were on a different level now", Atlas made him run at 5.30 in the morning, Moorer complied without a murmur.

The disciplinarian, who was Mike Tyson's first trainer, appears to have had a successful camp. The time passed without a crisis. "We are reaping the benefits of his training for his last fight," Atlas said. "Now he trusts me and does everything I say and believes everything will be OK again."

Moorer has looked excellent in training here at Johnny Tocco's gym and worked with concentration and interest. The physical aspect of Foreman does not worry Atlas, who said: "We have had 320lb, 6ft 6in men for sparring. It's

the Foreman mystique that I'm a little concerned about." Atlas said he was not one of those who dismissed the bout as a mismatch between a 26-year-old at his peak and a 45-year-old grandfather. "Having been with Cus D'Amato and Jim Jacobs, I have seen all the old fights and I know what these so-called old guys can do, particularly to your mind." "George Foreman has no aura for me," Moorer said. "I'm not saying George isn't a problem. He's a bigger man. He has a lot more experience. But I'm very confident. I do what it takes."

Forces review, page 7

FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION	
Today match	Brighthelm v Canterbury (NZ) (7.15)
RUGBY UNION	
Stones Eilat Championship	Stones v Wakefield (7.30)
FOOTBALL	
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated	
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Rochdale Borough v Congleton Town	
INTERTANK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Sandwell Boro v Halesowen Harriers	
UNITED SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Newhaven v Peacehaven and Talscombe	
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v Durham City	
BARNSLEY IRISH LEAGUE: Barnsley v Colchester, Gurgaon v Chelmsley, Cernik v Ards, Glentworth v Colchester, Ormeau Town v Barnsley, Portlough v Newry	
ROYAL CANAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND: First division: Ashford Town v Derry City (8.15), Bohemians v Shamrock Rovers (8.05), Kesh FC v Shamrock Rovers (8.05), Kesh FC v Shamrock Rovers (8.05)	
SCHOOLS: Full Time Trophy: Third round: Blackford v Rochdale (at Valley Road, 8.45)	

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Thames Valley v Worthing (8.05), SNOWCRUISE: Edinburgh v Berran and Hedges champions

THUNDER	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	
GOING: GOOD	SIS

1.10 THOROUGHBRED MARKETING NOVICES HURDLE (23.176; 2m 11 1/2yds) (20 runners)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	

1.40 NUMBERSIDE SEA AND LAND SERVICES SELLING HURDLE (23.199; 2m 11 1/2yds) (19)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	

2.15 UNITED EUROPEAN CAR CARRIERS HANDICAP CHASE (24.208; 2m 11 1/2yds) (8)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	

2.45 OFFSHOOT TRANSPORT HANDICAP HURDLE (23.428; 2m 11 1/2yds) (9)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	

3.15 ABB/CLUGSTON JOINT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.986; 2m 20 1/2yds) (14)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	

3.45 TRIPLEPOINT NOVICES CHASE (23.782; 2m 4f) (13)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	

4.15 GRUNWICK STAKES (National hunt flat race; £1,940; 1m 5 1/2yds) (15)	
1.10 Mr Vincent, 1.40 Dame Prospect, 2.15 Stay Awake, 2.45 Auburn Boy, 3.15 Le Maitre, 3.45 Gorteira, 4.15 Risky Bid.	



Moorer: insecure

Clough, the flawed genius of English football



David Miller looks at the career and character of a man who came to dominate the national game

The debate on whether it would have been good for English football if the brilliant, eccentric Brian Clough had been appointed national team manager, in succession to either Sir Alf Ramsey or Don Revie, is never-ending. Clough has now supplied the answer. No. Clough, whose bloated egoism sometimes approached the point of paranoia — and is exactly portrayed in a fascinating autobiography related to John Sadler — needless to say himself believes exactly the opposite. "We would have had one of the most exciting, positive England sides of all time," he characteristically asserts.

But he goes on to admit that the Football Association did not want someone who could publicly call the Italians "cheating bastards", after Derby County's European Cup semi-final defeat by Juventus in 1973 and an inconclusive Uefa inquiry.

He further relates, almost with pride, how he gratuitously insulted Professor Frank O'Gorman — a friendly, altruistic surgeon — for intruding on an England youth team discussion at half-time with the oranges.

The Mad Professor — as Clough dismissively refers to the equally controversial Sir Harold Thompson, internationally renowned physicist (not mathematician, as Clough writes) and FA chairman, who had created the most famous of Amateur Cup winners, Pegasus — rightly put Clough and Peter Taylor, his assistant, in charge of the youth team, under Ron Greenwood, to see how they would handle it. The FA committee included Sir Matt Busby. Clough and Taylor proved they did not have the patience.

That was a pity. Clough could have become more famous worldwide than Ramsey, could have given English football immense prestige, yet he lacked a fundamental quality, taught him at Sunderland by Alan Brown and that he demanded in all his players — self-discipline. That wild streak of genius laced with a resentful feeling

of inferiority, from being internationally ignored and then cheated by injury as a player — after a career encapsulated by a phenomenal record of 267 goals in 296 league and cup matches — made him intolerably, splendidly bumptious, the darling of cynical television producers and his own worst enemy. Appearing on *Parkinson*, understandable in the boy from the back streets, had become more important than personal dignity.

He admits the worst error of his life was needlessly resigning, with Taylor, at Derby. They had become consumed by their own sense of power, authority and their public acclaim.

"I knew I'd finish up with a team of league champions," he states, upon leaving Hartlepool. His talent, on which he unashamedly gloated, for motivating players was so immense and Taylor's, for finding and blending them, so astute — Taylor, the former goalkeeper, friend, mentor, humorist, work-dodger, financial opportunist and ace scout — they could, you sense, have climbed any peak.

They were Butch and Sundance. Whenever Taylor had made one of his crass personal miscalculations with the board, he would confide in class: "I think we're in trouble!" The tale of their inspired-yet-calculated, often reckless-yet-rational course, gambling on their exceptional, contrasted judgments, has produced one of the few worthy football books.

Clough's condemnation, as an aspiring young coach, of Charles Hughes, the FA director of coaching, is utterly damning — "never worked with anyone who knew less about football" — but the contradictions that have confused his own career, are starkly apparent.

He worshipped his mother, an angel of love and warmth in terraced, working-class Middlesbrough, who would have been ashamed of the needless expletives with which he has allowed Sadler to mar the narrative. Only occasionally sliding into clichés, Sadler is otherwise tell-



The high point of his career, Clough, with his inimitable partner, Taylor, savours winning the European Cup against Malmö in 1979



The low points, first the injury that cruelly ended his prolific playing days, then his painful final farewell to Nottingham Forest



ingly faithful to the vernacular of the game.

Clough dumps Birtles off the team coach in the middle of the countryside for complaining of an early start — "find your own way" — yet within the hour pulls his team

off a plane bound for the Middle East, scared by an abortive take-off, saying: "I couldn't care less what happens to the match guarantee." He denides the excessive money players now receive, exposing the greed of Stuart Pearce when attempting to double his salary with Nottingham Forest — "He couldn't tackle... was murdered by real wingers" — yet himself took all he could, though he categorically denies the infamous, alleged

"bung" from Tottenham Hotspur for Sheringham. He eulogises Hoddle and what he might have done with him for England, yet significantly never attempted to buy him. The fascination of the story is his assembly, with Taylor, of

often improbable, ultimately triumphant players and scintillating teams, uniquely, with two clubs: O'Hare, McGovern, Hinton, Mackay and Gemmill at Derby; then the derelict winger, Robertson — "a slob... furtively smoking

in the corner" — the underestimated striker, White, declining centre half, Lloyd, anonymous full back, Clark (now Forest's manager, allegedly uncontrollable central defender, Burns, and unknown centre forward, Birtles, with Nottingham Forest. A double miracle.

We tended to take it all for granted at the time, to have forgotten how the emergence of Forest from the bottom of the second division to win the European Cup in successive seasons was truly astonishing. The recreation of Robertson, as with Hinton, was the mark of managerial genius, as was the way Clough and Taylor produced successive teams devoid of fear, in which the sum of the whole exceeded the sum of the parts.

Taylor's instinct for blend is generously and affectionately told: how Taylor, without optimism, sent Clough off to "get Mackay" from Tottenham, how they diverted him from imminent appointment as assistant manager with Heart of Midlothian and then, extraordinarily, persuaded this hell-fire attacker to become their sweeper.

"When Mackay, the truly great Dave Mackay, put his foot on the ball under the most intense pressure in the six yard area and calmly played us out of trouble at Huddersfield... I remember Taylor's reaction... That's what we bought him for, we're on our way... the Derby era was born."

Yet this managerial genius so often failed to read the tea-leaves: with Stuart Webb, a scheming Derby secretary; with Sam Longson, generous but envious chairman; with Matt Busby, most of all, at Leeds, with players he had criticised and still despised as cheats when he, briefly, took charge. They were out for revenge. And got it. How could he have so misjudged the situation?

Finally, after his anti-climatic decline and relegation with Forest, Clough admits to his drinking problem. "I do drink too much... I have allowed [it] to take a hold... I will face it and bring it under control."

The old, old story: runaway, talented son of devoted mother. Like so many of us, Brian Clough has been the prisoner of his childhood. It would have taken an exceptional chairman to have replaced his mother, which was what he needed.

Clough, the Autobiography (Partridge Press, £16.99)

Ostrich attitude does game no favours

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF RUGBY authorities in Britain are ever to accept the ceding procedure — and they seem markedly reluctant to do so — they should start with the brawl between Neath and the South Africans on Wednesday. They should also accept responsibility for the actions of their players rather than turning a blind eye or deflecting blame on to the opposition.

To be at the Gnuil for the South Africans' 16-13 victory, was to be fearful for the future of rugby union. Not only because of the two outbreaks of mass violence, but for the series of petty infringements which these days go unchecked, and the ignorance of officials and senior players, who seem to think that such actions are all part of life's rich tapestry.

The Welsh Rugby Union's general committee met yesterday and could hardly fail to

have been reminded of Neath's dire record in respect of touring teams.

The 1989 New Zealanders played their game at the Gnuil in an atmosphere of over-charged hysteria that ended with Fred Howard, the referee, requiring a police escort off the field. The 1992 Australians complained of "bag-snatching", Neath players grabbing their testicles. Now, the South Africans know why they were warned of what to expect.

Taken in conjunction with Neath's start to this season, which saw two players sent off in the opening fortnight of the league, it is a melancholy record. Nobody would argue that the South Africans were blameless; indeed, they may now have a fair idea of what England were led to expect going into the now-notorious game against Eastern Province in Port Elizabeth in June.

But it is generally accepted that teams going to Neath expect to be intimidated, and it



Llewellyn: seen worse

was in the poorest of taste when Ron Waldron, their rugby manager, joked: "You have a referee and two linesmen, no player was sent off, it must have been a clean game." Nowhere on the Neath side did there seem any sense of regret.

Gareth Llewellyn, the Neath captain, said he had been in more violent games in

France: Tiaan Strauss, the South Africans' captain for the night, compared it with the violence he encountered playing against the notoriously aggressive Tucumans in Argentina in 1993. Subsequently, Tucumán province was banned for two years from playing touring teams, an example, set by the Argentine federation, which others might contemplate.

There seemed a clearcut case for dismissing players from both teams at the Gnuil, but Ray Messon, the experienced Scottish official, took the advice of his touch judges not to do so. "I refereed what I saw," he said yesterday, "if the powers-that-be saw it and study the videos, let's see whether they are prepared to take action."

Messon clearly tried to encourage a running game, yet his position became totally invidious when the first outbreak, late in the first half, occurred. He was not pre-

pared to take any two from several heaps of brawling players and dismiss them, but unless such sanctions are taken, the legacy of "streetwise" play — cheating — which has become, apparently, acceptable, will continue to grow.

Meanwhile, the South Africans count the cost before playing Swansea tomorrow with a XV close to their international team. Chris Badenhorst, the Orange Free State wing, returned home last night after breaking a small bone in his back and suffering heavy bruising of the kidneys when he was swamped under a high ball at Neath.

He will be replaced by Cabous van der Westhuizen of Natal, who will join the party in Scotland on Sunday. SWANSEA: A. Clement, S. Davies, R. Boucher, D. Westbury, S. Marshall, A. Williams, R. Jones, I. Ball, G. Jenkins, C. Colclough, A. Reynolds, P. Arnold, R. Morley, P. Appleby, J. Davies. SOUTH AFRICA: A. Joubert, P. Hendricks, J. Mulder, P. Muller, C. Williams, H. le Roux, J. van der Westhuizen, P. du Rand, U. Schmidt, J. Louw, F. Pienaar, A. Andrews, P. Schutte, R. Krieger, R. Strauss.

Australians keen to 'clear up' rulings

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BOBBY Fulton has struggled on tour to suppress his criticism of British referees, but the Australia coach has felt it necessary to speak to Graham Annesley, the Australian official in charge of the second John Smith's rugby league international tomorrow.

Annesley took charge of the first match, when Great Britain consulted him about interpretation. It was Britain's concern about the 10-metre offside rule at the play-the-ball — this has operated in Australia for two years — that is troubling the Australians.

Some Australian players felt that Britain got away with encroaching offside in wide positions. Fulton said he had wanted to "clear up" with Annesley decisions on offside and advantage rules.

Whether the plan by Jacques Fouroux, the former French rugby union captain and coach, for a super league in France stemmed mainly by converts from union, is some sort of spoiling tactic as part of his proposed Kerry Packer-style world-wide professional circuit in rugby union remains to be seen.

Fouroux has persuaded Ken Arthurson, the director general of the International Rugby League Board, and Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive, to attend the launch in Paris next Monday of a league supposedly starting between June and October next year.

Tony Barrow, the Swinton coach, has been fined £1,000 and barred from the touch line for the remainder of the season. He was found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute by the RFL board of directors after a defeat last week at Dewsbury during which four players were sent off.

Miscreants in urgent need of dressing-down

Sometimes I fear for rugby football. I fear that it is on a roller-coaster ride up a blind alley, and that sooner or later it will come up against a brick wall. I fear for its general good health and, not to put too fine a point on it, its sanity.

Rugby union is not what it used to be, I say. But nothing, I suppose, ever is. When this feeling gets to be disproportionate to rugby's place in the overall scheme of things, I follow Chesterton's view on taking exercise and I go away for a while to lie down until the whole thing blows over.

My view might be different to that of others because they are, perhaps, closer to adolescence and know of no other way of sporting life and its values. Perhaps, once upon a time, I did. But this is sport's generation gap. Suspicious of all things past, the new generation likes to set its own standards.



GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

Rugby players, as well as those thoroughly modern administrators, scream for the game to become professional. But what sort of profession is it they should ask, that allows the outbreaks of violence as happened in the southern hemisphere last summer — and at the Gnuil on Wednesday? And at each stage there is no apology except a mealy-mouthed attempt at justification.

The game has become confrontational and brutal. Rugby hardly ever wears a smile. It may never have been like that in New Zealand or South Africa, of course, where the sport has reflected a stern and,

often, a surly mood. The Europeans, until recently, had a lighter touch. They won some, they lost some. And if they lost, well, an attitude persisted which was like that of Sir Kingsley Amis towards the bad review of one of his novels: it might put him off his breakfast, but he would not allow it to spoil a good lunch.

Neither attitude was better nor worse than the other. Simply, they were different. Each could have learned from the other. But now, everyone is serious. So earnest is the pursuit of winning that familiar principles and once-cherished traditions can easily be

jettisoned. Players are bred and prepared to be more powerful. And having found such players the next step is, inevitably, to seek artificial assistance.

If some of the players in the Republic have been tested positive for drugs, South Africa has now turned its attention to the kit its players wear. The team now wears shoulder padding. If there have been instances of individuals, as a result of injury, doing so in the past, no club or international team has done so collectively, as a matter of principle. The South Africans are the first to break with what is understood to be permissible.

While the regulations allow for padding, there is scope for interpretation. The regulation reads: "The wearing of thin pads of cotton wool, sponge, rubber or similar soft materials may be permitted, provided they are attached to the

body or sewn to the jerseys." No form of harness is allowed.

For their part, the South Africans wear an undergarment which has been interpreted as illegal. They wore them against Cardiff, in the first game on the tour, were told that it is against the laws, but wore them again against Neath.

Furthermore, some players in the South Africa squad, like some in this country, wear hamstring supports under their shorts, and these are padded in the way of swivelling floats.

The trend is alarmingly clear and there is a logic in thinking that if one team can wear shoulder pads, the other can rightly defend itself by wearing thigh pads. It is but a step away from the kind of kit worn by American footballers. This is rugby union played on the funny farm.

THE TIMES

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Improvvised according to scientific principles

Having just been taken to task by a reader for his wild, inventive application of the semi-color (such sad lives people lead), I am perhaps on dodgy ground here. But I still wonder why there is no comma in the title of Channel 4's new end-of-the-challenge programme *Beat That Einstein*. Is it a joke? A trap for *Radio Times*? Or simple punctuation illiteracy, like putting inverted commas around the word potatoes at the green-grocers ("Potatoes"), thus suggesting that the potatoes in question are a new, shy, apologetic variety? *Beat That Einstein*? Mm. Some relation to "Stop That Pigeon", perhaps.

Harold Ross of *The New Yorker* would have been greatly shocked. Ross would defend the use of the comma even in the sentence, "After dinner, the women retired to the drawing room," on the elegant grounds that the punctuation gave the gentlemen time to stand

up and push back their chairs. In most other respects, however, *Beat That Einstein* was surprisingly not irritating at all. This son-of-the-egg-race featured no wacky German professors, nor Tim Hunkin-style cartoonery, while still successfully explaining how things work. Five resourceful people were assembled on a sunny beach with a pile of inflatable tyres, buckets, paddles and gas canisters (plus books explaining Archimedes' Principle and Boyle's Law), and set the challenge of finding and retrieving a piano sunk off-shore. For fans of Jane Campion's *The Piano*, considerable excitement was added by the hope that when the instrument was located, it would feature a small Victorian woman floating a few feet above it, attached by a rope around her ankle.

How would you go about solving the problem? Let me reiterate the basics. Piano on sea-floor. On

the beach, five people, lots of bits and bobs. Scientific principles. Well, it's just an idea at this stage, but here goes. First, you collect up the bits and bobs. Then you drive them to the nearest town, flag them, and with the proceeds hire a helicopter ("I think she's got it"). From the helicopter, you locate the piano quite easily ("Yes!"). Then you dive with a rope, and get the helicopter to pull it up the strain ("Hoorah!"). And the great thing is, all this is accomplished by just one of the five volunteers, thus leaving the other four free to organise the paper hats for the after-noon barbecue ("Brilliant!").

Bringing, this excellent solution did not occur to anybody. Instead, these earnest, calm, intelligent people made periscopes out of buckets, and used principles of underwater sonar learnt hastily from books. A refreshing element of the pro-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

gramme was that we were not invited to share the psycho-dynamics of the group ("John is threatening to walk out because nobody agrees with his inflatable waders idea!"). In fact I scarcely registered their names. Nor was there a big clock ticking away the hours as the deadline approached. Instead, the key matter, genuinely, was the practical application of water-displacement, which is a principle

worth remembering if (for example) you ever drop a cherished bowling-ball in the deep end of a swimming bath, and think, "Well, I can kiss that goodbye".

Richard Vranich seemed an odd choice of chap to front *Beat That Einstein*, but acquitted himself perfectly well. Apparently he has a doctorate in something scientific, but he is best known as the musician on *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, where he accompanies improvised songs, and gets a token appearance of such minimal length, this edition flashing on and off screen in less time than it takes to say "Richard Vranich at the piano" that you can understand how ambition might have been fuelled. Meanwhile, the *Whose Line?* associations certainly lend a frisson to proceedings in *Beat That Einstein*. Having succeeded in bringing their piano ashore, would the team then be obliged to repeat the performance, in the style of

Gilbert and Sullivan? "I am the very model of the Archimedes principle" would make a pretty good first line, but I defy even Josie Lawrence to take it on from there.

On BBC2, the new oral history series *Forbidden Britain* (or was it bad news?) that juvenile delinquency was not a recent invention. Former tearaways, now in their sixties, admitted to thieving ration-books in the blackout, *à la* Bob in *Seaford*. The subtitle to the series is "Our Secret Past 1900-1960", and it is a successor to Steve Humphries' popular *A Secret World of Sex* (about sex) and *A Labour of Love* (about child-rearing), both of which were likewise cavalier in the use of 1900 as a starting date. In 1994, it's quite rare to find anyone who remembers 1900, and in last night's programme most of the testimonies concerned the 1930s.

I have carped before about Steve Humphries, which seems horrid and ungrateful when he consistently unearths such fascinating stuff, captures testimony before it's too late, and demonstrates a superb eye for a surprising story. But it's those damn sound commentaries, read by Zöe Wamaker, that annoy me — generalised, detached and anthropological, as though written by a Martian on a scholarship. It is such a contradictory mix: Humphries encourages people to tell their own stories, but then blithely objectifies whole decades, whole classes of society, as though discussing the Black Death. Perhaps the period is simply too recent, and it's hard to accept a historian's critical distance on it. But you can't be blamed for panicking and yelling "Now hang on!" when the tide of social history is visibly lapping your own ankles, preparing to sweep you away.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (24471)
- 7.00 RBC Breakfast News (5855558)
- 9.05 Kiboy (2345452)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5858384)
- 10.05 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Magazine series (s) (50618891)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7807520) 12.05pm Pobble-Mill presented by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (5464278) 12.55 Regional News and weather (28843029)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (11346)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (55057568) 1.50 The Great British Quiz (s) (55051384)
- 2.15 Holiday (s) (Ceefax) (s) (568617) 2.45 The Flying Doctors. (Ceefax) (s) (1874013)
- 3.30 Secret Life of Toys (s) (4626237) 3.45 TVK (s) (4614523) 4.00 The New York Super Show (s) (3158568) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (s) (7053162) 4.35 Record Breakers presented by Cheryl Baker, Kris Akabusi and Mark Curry. (Ceefax) (s) (5808907)
- 5.00 Newsround (5530836) 5.10 Byker Grove. Children's drama. (Ceefax) (s) (5732888)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (785742)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (471)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (723)
- 7.00 Wipeout. Game show hosted by Paul Daniels. (Ceefax) (s) (7471). Wales: Inside Out.
- 7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes Howard Stabileford in Chile; reporting on a simple invention that can produce drinking water from thin air. (Ceefax) (s) (907)

- 8.00 Good Fortune! (Ceefax) (s) (583365)
- 8.50 TV Heroes. Darryl Baker in praise of Top of the Pops's audience (s) (Ceefax) (s) (663384)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5094)
- 9.30 Harry Enfield and Chums. (Ceefax) (58346). Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box 10.30 Harry Enfield 11.00 Film: Cape Fear 1.05am-1.30 De Niro Meets Frankenstein



Juliette Lewis and Jessica Lange (10.00pm)

- 10.00 FILM: Cape Fear (1991) starring Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte and Jessica Lange. A thriller about a psychopath, released from prison after serving 14 years, who is obsessed with vengeance on the lawyer who unsuccessfully defended him. Directed by Martin Scorsese. (Ceefax) (s) (5946). Released: Eleven Cassettes 10.30 Film: Cape Fear 12.30am De Niro Meets Frankenstein 12.55-2.25 Film: Curse of the Crimson Altar
- 12.25am FILM: Curse of the Crimson Altar (1970) starring Boris Karloff, in his last film, and Christopher Lee. Tongue-in-cheek thriller about a man exacting revenge on the descendants of those who burnt an ancestor of his at the stake. Directed by Vernon Sewell (5850939) 1.55 Weather (5012327)

BBC2

- 7.00 Teddy Trucks (s) (5851433) 7.05 Philbert the Frog (s) (5850704) 7.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Ceefax) (5600075) 7.30 Blue Peter (s) (Ceefax) (s) (22452)
- 8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (6220617) 8.15 Westminster Daily (1222758)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (s) (5818617) 2.00 Pardon Sam (s) (54085016)
- 2.10 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rolison. Tennis: action from the Guardian Direct National championships at the Telford International Centre, and Netball: the first of a five-match series between England and South Africa from the G-Mex Centre, Manchester (s). Includes News and weather at 3.00 (165636) 3.50 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (361094)
- 4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (636)
- 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Culinary magazine (520)
- 5.00 Esther. Esther Rantzen talks to people who were forced to take the law into their own hands (s) (2549)
- 5.30 Catchword (100) 6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (s) (Ceefax) (945699)
- 6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). Classic detective series (802384)
- 7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (839452)
- 7.30 Sounds of the Seventies (s) (s) (549)
- 8.00 Public Eye: Girl Gangs. Wendy Robbins reports on the trend towards violent crime among young women. (Ceefax) (1433)



Ricky Bastin and Brian Calvert (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Perpetual Motion: Concorde. (Ceefax) (s) (5128)
- 9.00 Naked Video 33 1/3. Highlights from the comedy series. (Ceefax) (3636)
- 9.30 Anjelica Huston's Favourite Films. (Ceefax) (58683)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You presented by Angus Deayton, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton are joined by Arthur Smith and Richard Coles (s) (57888)
- 10.15 Newswatch. (Ceefax) (548181)
- 11.30 Newsnight and Baddiel in Pieces (s) (Ceefax) (s) (106384)
- 11.45 The Larry Sanders Show. American comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (184758)
- 12.00am Weather (5145037)
- 12.15 FILM: The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948, b/w) starring Humphrey Bogart, Tim Holt and Walter Huston. A gripping drama about three disparate characters searching for gold in Mexico. Directed by John Huston (90040259). Ends at 2.28

The number one TV programme in the country is *Perpetual Motion: Concorde*, which allows you to programme your video recorder to watch the world's fastest passenger aircraft may be grounded by the beginning of the next century according to this nostalgic-sounding documentary. Concorde, it seems, is getting old, and there is no guarantee that she will have a supersonic successor. Since the 1940s when the idea of supersonic travel was conceived, Concorde has been the subject of much political wrangling and has had to rise above safety scares and the complaints of campaigners who dismissed it as noisy, expensive and unnecessary. Nor has the plane, a collaboration between Britain and France, ever achieved the pick-up from other countries that it originally wanted. This programme looks back over its past and talks to staff, including maintenance manager Ricky Bastin and pilot Brian Calvert.

CHOICE



Harry Enfield and Chums

While by no means uniformly funny, Harry Enfield's new comedy series with Paul Whitehouse and Kathy Burke boasts some well observed character studies. The first programme contains several new creations — The Self-Righteous Brothers, Brian Bewildered, Kevin (a happy boy who becomes a teeny teenager the minute he turns 13) and the Lovely Wobbly Randy Old Ladies. These last are too disgusting to be anything but cringing, making, but the others look promising. Also featured tonight are old friends Wayne and Wynne Slob and there is also an entertaining cameo from Ben Elton, who gamely stars in a politically correct version of a Benny Hill sketch.

Perpetual Motion: Concorde

The world's fastest passenger aircraft may be grounded by the beginning of the next century according to this nostalgic-sounding documentary. Concorde, it seems, is getting old, and there is no guarantee that she will have a supersonic successor. Since the 1940s when the idea of supersonic travel was conceived, Concorde has been the subject of much political wrangling and has had to rise above safety scares and the complaints of campaigners who dismissed it as noisy, expensive and unnecessary. Nor has the plane, a collaboration between Britain and France, ever achieved the pick-up from other countries that it originally wanted. This programme looks back over its past and talks to staff, including maintenance manager Ricky Bastin and pilot Brian Calvert.

Good Fortune!

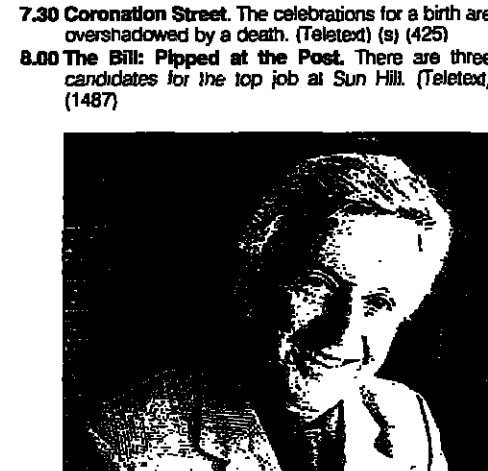
No need to chase after cash prizes on humiliating game shows: an inspired new series aims to reunite you with the money you never knew you had. Hosted by Gloria Hunniford, and seemingly undaunted by the legal minefields that must surely lie in its path, the show tries to track down heirs, heiresses and beneficiaries to give them thousands of pounds worth of unclaimed money, land and personal property. Viewers offer their input by phoning in to help to solve some unsolved inheritance issues and there are news of mysteries raised in July's pilot programme.

Anjelica Huston's Favourite Films

"I guess I like movies about bad people," confesses actress Anjelica Huston as she singles out films such as *Gone With the Wind* and *All About Eve* among her best movies list. As the daughter of director John Huston, she saw many of his films at screenings in her home while she was growing up. In fact her childhood in a small town in Ireland did not offer many other opportunities to see films. Interestingly, his picture *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (being shown tonight at 12.15am on BBC2) became her first introduction to her grandfather, the actor Walter Huston, who died before she was born. Enriched by some marvellous movie clips from classics such as *The African Queen* and *Ben Hur*, the programme also includes Huston's recollections about her own films, particularly those in which she worked with her perfectionist father.

CARLTON/LWT

- 6.00am GMTV (3677471)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Shopping game show hosted by Dale Winton (4796182) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (628084)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place. Topical discussion series chaired by John Stapleton (s) (5260810)
- 10.35 This Morning (7317123) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (7803704)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (1702177)
- 12.55 Coronation Street (s). (Teletext) (5105538) 1.25 Home and Away. (Teletext) (5052365) 1.55 The Chrystal Road. The guests are people who have undergone plastic surgery (s) (52760487)
- 2.25 A Country Practice. Medical soap set in the Australian outback (s) (23677487) 2.50 Take the High Road. Highlands-based drama series (7624810)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (6084029) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (603100)
- 3.30 The Magic House (s) (4811385) 3.45 The Spooks of Bottle Bay (s) (4806520) 4.00 Avenger Penguins (s) (5523487) 4.25 Taz-Mania (s) (3820297) 4.40 Knights (s) (4533900)
- 5.10 After 5 presented by Caron Keating. (Teletext) (2439094)
- 5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (776146)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (840015)
- 6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (419723)
- 7.00 Cataphract. Quiz game show introduced by Roy Walker. (Teletext) (s) (8639)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. The celebrations for a birth are overshadowed by a death. (Teletext) (s) (425)
- 8.00 The Bill: Popped at the Post. There are three candidates for the top job at Sun Hill. (Teletext) (1487)



Michael Aspel questions the unusual (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Strange but True? Michael Aspel investigates stories of the supernatural. (Teletext) (s) (1034)
- 9.00 Peak Practice. Medical drama series set in the Derbyshire countryside. Starring Kevin Whately, Amanda Burton and Simon Shepherd (s) (Teletext) (s) (2605)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (57742)
- 10.30 Crime Monthly. Penny Smith appeals for help with unsolved crime in the London area (86902)
- 11.30 Tropical Heat. American detective drama series (23365)
- 12.30am London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (2841105)
- 12.40 Whale On (s) (4642245)
- 1.35 Londoners. Video magazine series (9226786)
- 2.35 ITV Chart Show (s) (6884766)
- 3.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. A review of the latest American films (50619)
- 4.00 Nasty Mothers. Rock and heavy metal music magazine (s) (83698)
- 5.00 Best of British Motor Sport (37037)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (61691) Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (4474520)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (34297)
- 9.00 You Set Your Life (s) (84891)
- 9.30 Schools Eureka! (9238278) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (5226433) 10.00 Fourways Farm (5680346) 10.10 Maths Everywhere (7841100) 10.25 Technology (7889655) 10.40 Off Limits (5387636) 11.05 Schools at Work (9640365) 11.11 Time for Maths (934384) 11.22 Stage One (5914520) 11.40 How We Used to Live (s) (309758)
- 12.00 Profiles of Nature: The Red-Tailed Hawk (s) (84655)
- 12.30 Sesame Street (s) (24988) 1.30 Lift Off (s) (33891)
- 2.00 FILM: The Long Memory (1952, b/w) starring John Mills, John McCallum and Elizabeth Sellers. Vintage thriller directed by Robert Hamner (605520)
- 3.40 Meet Mother Magoo and Megoo Saves the Bank. Cartoon double bill (736605)
- 4.00 Journey Into A Lost Japan. The conclusion of Lesley Downer's exploration of the old Japan (s). (Teletext) (s) (704)
- 4.30 Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (888)
- 5.00 Cutting Edge: Bodyguards. A repeat of Monday's programme that followed the fortunes of 22 men and women who each paid £250 to train as a bodyguard. (Teletext) (9452)
- 6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based comedy series (s). (Teletext) (s) (181)
- 6.30 Happy Days (s). (Teletext) (433)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (276365)
- 7.50 You Don't Know Me But... A person in the news receives unsolicited advice (423075)
- 8.00 Class Action. The penultimate programme of the education magazine (9023)



Lily, Barry, Max and Loyd... (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Brookside. Barry and Max's restaurant is visited by Loyd Grossman. (Teletext) (s) (5636)
- 9.00 Ellen American comedy series starring Ellen DeGeneres. (Teletext) (s) (8704)
- 9.30 Paris. Degout (Alexis Sayle) is jealous when the Jazz Age hits Paris and the musicians get all the girls. (Teletext) (s) (14384)
- 10.00 Cheats. Cliff's estranged father arrives for a reconciliation before he leaves for Australia. Only afterwards does Cliff learn that the forces of law and order are hot in pursuit (s) (Teletext) (85384)
- 10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. With David Meltzer, MP, Sarah Miles and Benedict Allen (s) (568297)
- 11.10 Eurotrash. Antoine de Caunes and Jean Paul Gaultier explore Europe's seamiest side (s) (242181)
- 11.45 FILM: Matador (1986) starring Antonio Banderas. Thriller about a serial killer and the man who wrongly confesses to the murders. Directed by Pedro Almodóvar in Spanish with English subtitles (507345)
- 1.40am FILM: At the Circus (1939, b/w) starring the Marx Brothers. The comic trio come to the rescue of a circus owner who has fallen into the clutches of a loan shark. Directed by Irving Brecher (782211). Ends at 3.15

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (5504723) 2.50-3.00 Murder, She Wrote (540094) 3.00-3.30 Newsround (5530836) 3.30-3.45 The Young Doctors (5504723) 3.45-4.00 Newsround (5530836) 4.00-4.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 4.30-5.00 Newsround (5530836) 5.00-5.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 5.30-6.00 Newsround (5530836) 6.00-6.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 6.30-7.00 Newsround (5530836) 7.00-7.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 7.30-8.00 Newsround (5530836) 8.00-8.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 8.30-9.00 Newsround (5530836) 9.00-9.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 9.30-10.00 Newsround (5530836) 10.00-10.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 10.30-11.00 Newsround (5530836) 11.00-11.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 11.30-12.00 Newsround (5530836) 12.00-12.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 12.30-1.00 Newsround (5530836) 1.00-1.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 1.30-2.00 Newsround (5530836) 2.00-2.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 2.30-3.00 Newsround (5530836) 3.00-3.30 The Young Doctors (5504723) 3.30-4.00 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TENNIS 41

OUTSIDERS DEFY ODDS TO REACH LAST EIGHT AT TELFORD

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4 1994

CRICKET 46

ENGLAND CAPTAINCY BECKONS FOR GATTING AFTER SIX-YEAR GAP

Tottenham return match beckons for Pleat

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SEVEN years after leaving Tottenham Hotspur, amid lurid allegations about his private life, David Pleat has again been offered the keys to White Hart Lane. Pleat, the Luton Town manager, will speak with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, today and over the weekend regarding a possible new role as general manager at the FA Carling Premiership club. Their talks are likely to be fruitful.

Just three days after dismissing Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, Sugar has moved swiftly to restructure his back-room staff. If Pleat, 49, is tempted by Sugar's persuasive powers, Steve Perryman, who was appointed caretaker manager in the wake of Ardiles's departure,

would quickly return to his coaching duties. The pair would work closely on team selection but it would still leave room for a team manager should it be deemed necessary.

David Kohler, the chairman of Luton, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, cleared the way for Pleat's return to north London yesterday by giving him permission to speak to Sugar. "I have no wish for David to leave Luton but I have reluctantly allowed him to talk to Tottenham so he can make his own decision," he said. "Once he decides what he wishes to do, he will have my full backing."

Pleat, who led Tottenham to the FA Cup final against Coventry City in 1987, remained cautious about the prospect of masterminding a

revival at White Hart Lane. He said: "Tottenham is a big club that has always had tremendous charisma but they have had a traumatic time over the past few seasons. Of course, I'm interested in seeing what is involved."

"It could be an exciting and fascinating adventure but it all has to be conducted harmoniously, with no acrimony or animosity on leaving — if there is to be a leaving. I'll just have to wait and see what the role at Tottenham entails."

Pleat's playing career embraced Nottingham Forest, Luton, Shrewsbury Town, Exeter City and Peterborough United. In management, he has built his reputation as one of the shrewdest thinkers in the game with Nuneaton Borough, Luton, twice. Tottenham and Leicester City. He took Luton to the second



Francis: resignation



Pleat: remains cautious

division title, in 1982, and the FA Cup semi-finals, in 1985 and 1993, and his services as a media football analyst are always in demand.

His 16-month spell in charge at Tottenham ended in

October 1987 when he resigned after a newspaper article claimed that, while still manager of Luton, he had been observed kerb-crawling near the club's ground in Kenilworth Road. On leaving

Tottenham, he said: "I've just got to accept I'm out of a job."

However, he was never charged with any offence.

Should Pleat decide to return to Tottenham, Sugar will again have to dip into his vast resources. After the signing of Gheorghe Popescu for £2.9 million in September, he said the well had run dry. Yet he now faces an estimated £500,000 pay-off to Ardiles — as well as money still owed to West Bromwich Albion, from where he took Ardiles — a compensation package of about £200,000 to Luton, plus substantial wages for Pleat and any prospective new team manager. Sugar, engaged in a Tottenham board meeting all day, was unavailable for comment.

West London also witnessed its fair share of football shenanigans yesterday, with Ger-

ry Francis, the Queens Park Rangers manager, resigning from the club — only to be told it was not acceptable. Eventually, a degree of sanity was restored at Loftus Road. He will still be in charge of the team when Rangers play Newcastle United tomorrow and will have further discussions with Peter Ellis, the club chairman, and Richard Thompson, the owner, on Monday.

Francis, 42, had been aggrieved at the boardroom decision to offer the post of chief executive to Rodney Marsh, the former Rangers player.

Had the move gone ahead, Marsh, 30, would have had the power of veto over the buying and selling of players — a situation Francis was not prepared to tolerate.

Having considered his position for three days, Francis said: "It is with deep regret I have found it necessary to resign. I am immensely proud of the achievements by the players and the club over the last three seasons in difficult circumstances."

Rangers refused to accept the resignation and, hours later, the club rescinded its job offer to Marsh and prepared to make its peace with Francis, who has only seven months remaining on his present contract.

In a statement, the Premiership club said: "After lengthy discussions with Gerry Francis, we have decided to withdraw the offer to Rodney Marsh in the best interests of Queens Park Rangers Football Club. Gerry will take charge of the team at Newcastle and further talks will continue on Monday."

Spencer walks tall as English pride is salvaged in Cup Winners' Cup

Chelsea take up flag in Europe

FK Austria..... 1
Chelsea..... 1
(1-1 on agg; Chelsea win on away goals)

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN VIENNA

A REMARKABLE, run-away goal by John Spencer, covering almost the length of the field, gave depleted Chelsea an unexpected victory in the European Cup Winners' Cup here last night. Under intense pressure after FK Austria drew level in the second half, Chelsea somehow held on to win on the away goal.

Hodde had made a splen-

Flawed genius..... page 44
Cruyff's masters..... page 44
Angry Dalglish..... page 44

did job of assembling his depleted forces, his regular 4-4-2 formation causing difficulties for the negative Austrians from the start. To accommodate both Kharine, so important to this team, in goal as well as Spencer up front, the foreigner he omitted was Kjeldberg from the centre of defence.

Spackman thus partnered Johnsen between the full backs. Hall and Barnes, with Shipperly racing in every direction in attack alongside Spencer. Shipperly is no technician, but has a heart as big as a horse's, and his tireless efforts, together with Spencer, kept three and even four Austrian defenders occupied, preventing more men moving up in support of attack. When they did, Chelsea wobbled.

Looking at Chelsea's initiative, you would never have

supposed that they were missing Peacock, Furlong and Sinclair. There was more the impression that it was FK Austria who were protecting a goalless first leg. Their 1-2-5-2 formation was singularly unadventurous and Chelsea had more time to breathe than could have been expected beforehand.

Indeed, it was Chelsea who made much of the early running. Myers, playing on the left side of midfield, had a header straight at Wohlfahrt, from Hall's cross, and, from a risky back pass from Pfeffer, one of the two markers in the centre of defence. Shipperly forced Wohlfahrt to make a hasty clearance.

Chelsea are short of tall players and were under pressure whenever the Viennese forced a corner, but their attacks were more frequent and more dangerous. Even so, chances were spurned until four minutes before half-time, when Chelsea went in front from the unlikelyst of situations.

Austria had forced a corner, Zsak once more coming up in support. The ball was not cleared and Zsak drove at Kharine, but the ball was blocked, rebounded out of the penalty area and, with every Austrian player caught in forward positions, Spencer found himself with the entire field open before him and nobody but the distant Wohlfahrt between him and the opposing goal. He had about an eight-yard start on the opposition.

Off he went, his short legs going like pistons. Gradually, Zsak and Pfeffer overhauled him, but he kept his nerve and his balance. Out came Wohlfahrt to narrow the an-



Spackman, the experienced Chelsea defender, puts the FK Austria defence under pressure in their Cup Winners' Cup encounter in Vienna last night

gle. Instinct cried out for Spencer to shoot, but he waited, drew the goalkeeper still further, side-stepped him and calmly stoked the ball into an empty net. It was a masterful run and perfect finish.

Within moments, Spencer was prostrate in the middle of the field, hurt in a collision with Floegel. Barely was he back on his feet, having been carried off on a stretcher with badly bruised ribs, than Hall and Wise were both laid out at opposite ends. Hall when conceding a corner. With Hall carried off on a stretcher, Chelsea had to defend a corner with only nine men standing, but somehow they held out until the half-time whistle brought them relief.

The scoreline now required Austria to adjust their tactical philosophy because they need-

ed to score at least twice. They began to pass with more urgency, but Chelsea held firm.

Nevertheless, Austria were dismayed when their best chance yet, in the 63rd minute, went begging. Floegel crossed from the right and Kogler, one of the markers who had come through on a run, pulled his shot wide of the left-hand post.

There were only 17 minutes to go when Narbekovas, from an angle on the right, hooked a low shot beyond Kharin's right hand to level the score but Chelsea still held the away goal advantage.

FK AUSTRIA (1-2-5-2): F. Wohlfahrt — M. Zsak — A. Pfeffer, W. Kogler — T. Floegel, M. Zechner, C. Prosenic, S. Reljak, A. Sevanoglu — A. Narbekovas, M. Mijelja. CHLSEA (4-4-2): D. Kharine — G. Hall (sub: S. Morris, J. N. Spackman, E. Johnsen, A. Barnes) — D. Wise, E. Newton, D. Roccia (sub: G. Hodde, S. J. Spencer, N. Shipperly). Referee: F. Vandenberghe (Belgium).

Riedle puts Germans through to third round

KARL-HEINZ Riedle, the German international striker, scored twice to help Borussia Dortmund to a 3-0 victory over Slovan Bratislava in the second-round second-leg Uefa Cup match in Dortmund yesterday. Having lost the away leg 2-1, the Germans took the tie 4-2 on aggregate to go through to the last 16.

Andreas Moeller, the German international midfielder player, who had an outstanding game, put Dortmund ahead in the fifteenth minute and Riedle increased the lead seconds after the interval.

In the 66th minute, Slovan were reduced to ten men when

Sobona was sent off for and two minutes later Borussia took advantage of their numerical advantage, Chapuisat heading the defence and finding the unmarked Riedle, who fired home.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Ferencvaros, of Hungary, gained a surprise 2-0 second leg win over FC Porto, of Portugal, but went out 6-2 on aggregate, having lost the first leg 6-0. Zavadsky put Ferencvaros ahead after 27 minutes and Neagoe scored the second on the hour. Porto were reduced to ten men after 52 minutes when Banderinha was sent off.

MORSE

Hyper-Tension.



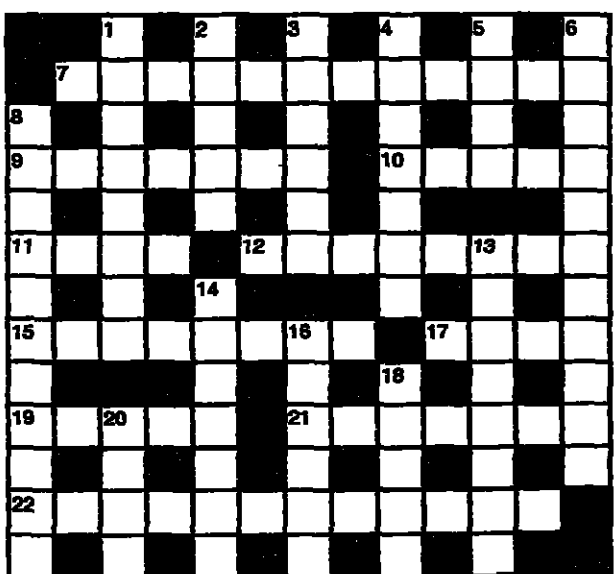
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The essential facts on Sun's new workstation will be in our one-page executive summary.



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No 310

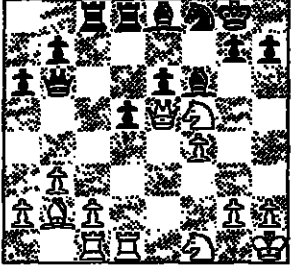
- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>7 Black tie, etc (7,5)</p> <p>9 Continually nag (husband) (7)</p> <p>10 Sound; its reproduction (5)</p> <p>11 Talent; present (4)</p> <p>12 Worshipped, revered (8)</p> <p>15 Count, take effect (against) (8)</p> <p>17 Flower; part of eye (4)</p> <p>19 Deduce (5)</p> <p>21 Living in water (7)</p> <p>22 Not inspiring belief (12)</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Incident-packed (8)</p> <p>2 (Requirement) not satisfied (5)</p> <p>3 Glided in reptilian fashion (6)</p> <p>4 In a perfect world (7)</p> <p>5 Obscene (4)</p> <p>6 (Proverbially) heartless (2,4,2,3)</p> <p>8 One's play has been found out (3,4,2,2)</p> <p>13 Detailed examination (8)</p> <p>14 Gazing (rudely) (7)</p> <p>16 Disastrous; pitiable (6)</p> <p>18 Rabbit pen (5)</p> <p>20 Thing that really happened (4)</p> |
|--|--|

SOLUTION TO NO 309
ACROSS: 7 Size 8 Causeway 9 Squint 10 Gatter 11 Cone 12 Red Cross 15 Dead heat 17 Ploy 18 Scorch 21 Nerves 22 Mischief 23 Cull
DOWN: 1 Misquote 2 Defile 3 Scot-free 4 Bung 5 Neuter 6 Fade 13 Detoxify 14 Slovenly 16 Direct 17 Piracy 19 Clip 20 Hall

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Pujek — Stanic, Porec 1994. White has lured Black into a trap by allowing a bishop move to f6 which skews his queen and bishop. How did White now demonstrate his refutation?



Solution, page 42
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- HUPA
a. a child's game
b. A Californian Indian
c. A lace shawl
- MAGLEV
a. Magnetic levitation
b. A Lithuanian teacher
c. A heavy metal

- NOMISMA
a. False opinion
b. A Byzantine coin
c. A putative mother
- LONTAR
a. A carbon pitch
b. At a distance
c. A palm manuscript

Answers on page 42